Sandwell
CHRONICLE

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EYESORE COLLAPSED WALL IS STILL NOT FIXED TWO YEARS ON

Robert Mooney whose garden backs on to a wall that collapsed two years ago

A 12ft wall that collapsed two years ago has still not been rebuilt by council bosses – with piles of bricks and rubble blighting homes.

The eyesore wall which backs onto Robert Mooney's garden in Clyde Street, Old Hill, fell into nearby Stacey Close in June 2014.

Orange barriers have remained in place since the collapse but Mr Mooney claims that despite several visits from council officers still nothing has been done.

Mr Mooney and neighbours have campaigned since its collapse to be cleared.

Mr Mooney, who has lived in the street for 15 years, said it had become a 'hazard' with the remainder of it about to fall at any time.

The council says the situation is complicated over land ownership. Mr Mooney, aged 53, said: "Due to just general wear and tear the wall just collapsed one day in about June 2014. It collapsed into the garden of the first house in Stacey Close and the rest of what is left looks like it is about to fall at anytime.

"Council officers came out on several occasions and said it was structurally unsafe, but then they say they are always awaiting to get quotes for the cost of it to be repaired.

"It is really worrying as there are infants who play in Stacey Close and this is a hazard that could fall at any time.Mr Mooney added: "It is disgusting that still nothing has been done about this yet. I suffer with bad health and this a constant concern for me." Councillor David Hosell, for Highways and Environment said: "If the wall is unsafe then I would presume a council officer has looked at it and passed comment on it in the past.

"But if the gentleman is still unhappy then I will ask for officers to re-visit the site again and have a check over it to see what can be done.

"If it is structurally unsafe then this is something that needs to be assessed."

Adrian Scarrott, director of Neighbourhood Services, said: "We are addressing this.

"However it is a complicated situation involving land ownership and an old wall. We are doing what we can to sort it out."

Fed-up neighbour records vehicles mounting pavements

BUSES CHAOS IS CAUGHT ON FILM

BUS CHAOS in a quiet Black Country street has been caught on camera by a fed-up resident.

Bus drivers are filmed reversing on to residents' drives, narrowly avoiding cars and using the entire pavement to manoeuvre out of trouble in Cupfields Avenue, Tipton. Jane Harris was waiting for two single-deck buses to clear after they got stuck on a tight corner in her street and decided to film the mayhem that ensued.

Three more buses join the congestion during the five-minute footage posted on YouTube on May 23. And it is not the first time there has been problems at the spot. Over the last three years, Ms Harris, aged 43, said a wall in front of her house has been knocked down by buses and other vehicles passing by.

A transport supervisor at Aston Manor Brewery, she said: "About 10 years ago we used to just have National Express on there and they used to run a service every 30 minutes and you didn't get the disruption. But now it's every 10 minutes and we have got two separate companies on there now. It has been ongoing with National Express, the highways and the councillors for the last three years, probably longer.

"In 2009 I complained to the [Sandwell Council] highways [department] and they managed to put [two] bollards up."

Ms Harris said a third on the pavement in front of her house would help any further damage by the route.

Cupfields Avenue is currently used by National Express and Diamond Bus services on the 42 and 43 routes, travelling from West Bromwich to Tipton and Bilston, respectively.

She added: "The problem I have got is the bus mounting the kerb. The whole street is fed up of the buses."

Another video filmed from Ms Harris' house in January shows two double-deck National Express buses squeezed into a tight gap before one of their drivers is forced to reverse back to allow a car through.

Report by Nathan Briant

Eventually the buses pass together but are only able to get through by driving on both pavements. Great Bridge councillor Joanne Hadley held a meeting with the bus companies over a year ago asking for buses to be diverted away from Cupfields Avenue but they told her that would not be possible.

Councillor Hadley said: "It is such a tight road I don't know why the buses go down there at all." Ms Harris said she had contacted the Traffic Commissioner in Birmingham but had been told to put her video onto a disc so they could investigate further. Sandwell Council, Diamond Bus and National Express were unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

● To see video footage go to www.expressandstar.com

Two buses are filmed getting into difficulty as they try and pass each other at Cupfields Avenue in Tipton

COMMUNITY

Coffee Junction may face uncertain future

A POPULAR community cafe in Smethwick which helps youngsters with learning disabilities get into work could close in July after claims of failing to hit targets.

Coffee Junction in Bearwood, which is run by the Queen Elizabeth blind school in Harborne, has been a meeting place for families and young mothers for the past three years.

However, a petition set up by campaigner Ruairágh Ó Laoghaire on change.org, claims the cafe is due to close by the end of July after 'failing to hit the targets set by the Governors at the college'.

Almost 500 people in four days have signed the petition to save the venue.

COMMUNITY

Project will see £1m investment

A PROJECT which will see £1 million invested in the Hateley Heath and Stone Cross area has been launched this week.

The Hateley Cross Big Local (HCBL) initiative, a ten-year project funded by the Big Lottery Fund was launched on Tuesday.

Run by a resident-led partnership group, it aims to improve facilities for local people. The project is also being supported by local ward members and Sandwell Adventure Play Association.

DEVELOPMENT

Travelodge planned for glassworks site

A HOTEL will be built on a historic former glassworks site next to one of the Black Country's most popular attractions, under new plans.

Proposals for a Travelodge in Tipton Road near the Black Country Living Museum have been lodged. The 78-bed hotel is earmarked for the former Royal Brierley Crystal factory site. The factory was demolished in 2011. Part of the land has already been redeveloped for The Dudley Archive and Local History Centre.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed welcomed the hotel scheme.

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LIGHTWOODS' PAST UNVEILED

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Cannabis arrests up 40pc in 12 months

THE number of people caught red-handed with cannabis has shot up by more than 40 per cent during the past 12 months, new figures have revealed.

A total of 2,327 people were arrested for cannabis possession in the West Midlands in 2015 – up from 1,618 in the previous year.

Exactly 13,000 have been held by the force since 2011, according to the statistics revealed by a Freedom of Information request.

The overall trend has been downward, with 3,620 arrests in 2011 to 1,618 in 2014 – before the rise in 2015.

Councillor Bob Lloyd, who sits on Sandwell Council's health and adult social care scrutiny board, said it is positive that the numbers have been falling since 2011.

However, he said education about drugs needs to be improved to combat the problems even further. Councillor Lloyd said: "In Sandwell the council has recently launched a campaign with children from RSA Academy with the message that there are serious health risks with these things."

The figures also reveal the total number of possession of cannabis offences and people proceeded against for possession of cannabis from 2011. There were 6,416 in 2011 and fell ever year to 3,315 in 2015. Wayne Little, station commander at Tipton Community Fire Station, issued a warning about the risks of cannabis factories when launching a anti-cannabis campaign earlier this month.

He said: "So-called cannabis factories pose huge risks to those involved, their innocent neighbours and the emergency services. It's often the case that the criminals bypass the power supply, make unsafe structural alterations, and then fill the premises with cultivation equipment that uses huge amounts of power."

Anyone who suspects neighbours of illegally growing and supplying cannabis should call police on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

56pc rise in arrests of Eastern Europeans

EASTERN European arrests in the Black Country have rocketed by 56 per cent – while the number of people with UK nationality detained by police has dropped, it has emerged.

A total of 1,394 people from Russia, Estonia, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Latvia were arrested by police in 2015. This compared to 893 in 2011.

The number of Latvian people arrested jumped from 75 to 167, Hungarians arrested from 17 to 35 and Poles from 278 to 447. Romanian arrests went up 223 to 363 over the period, Slovakia arrests from 43 to 85, Estonian arrests from two to six and Slovenian dropped from one to zero.

Meanwhile, the number of British people arrested in the region fell from 18,258 to 17,592, a drop of four per cent. The Black Country area consists of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall and Sandwell local policing units. In January a Polish thief who targeted elderly people in Wolverhampton was jailed for two years and eight months.

Stolen

Gabriel Lipinski, aged 21, of Willenhall Road, had a previous conviction for a street robbery in Poland during which he stole a mobile phone. Also in January, another Lithuanian inmigrant, Gediminas Babusis, was jailed for six months after being caught with a stolen van less than three months after arriving to the UK.

Babusis, 44, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to the theft of the vehicle from Sowers Close, Willenhall.

Last month, Polish inmigrant Adrian Anderski was jailed for three years, two months, for trying to rob a woman and break into vehicles outside Wolverhampton railway station.

Anderski, 20, of Wellington Road, Tipton, admitted attempted robbery and theft and was ordered to be detained in a Young Offenders Institution. He faces deportation on release.

The figures come after West Midlands Police detained 83 people, including two Poles wanted by detectives in their own country on suspicion of separate frauds and a Czech man implicated in a burglary back in his homeland, as part of a multi-national operation.

Fight to help heart transplant pal

Front, event organiser Jason Brewster and Alan Bladen with fellow fundraisers at Tipton Sports & Social Club

A MAN in need of a heart transplant has received a financial boost from his boxing pal and other friends.

Alan Bladen, aged 66, died three times in hospital after a heart attack, but the retired factory worker came out punching, and is now on the transplant list.

In the meantime, his pal Jason Brewster, a former Midlands boxing champion, has rallied to help raise funds to help Mr Bladen out. A recent fundraiser pulled in £3,800 to go towards his care. Mr Brewster said: "Half his heart is dead, he's got a mechanical device in there keeping him alive. He's on the transplant waiting list. We held a fun day and an auction in Tipton, and I called in a few favours from friends in the boxing fraternity. It was a really good day."

Mr Bladen, who also worked as a driver before he retired, is set to tie the knot with his fiancee Julie Edmonds in July.

Mr Brewster added: "He gets married on July 8, it's a bit of a rushed wedding. We're going up to Blackpool for his stag. His fiancee Julie has been his rock. I'm just really happy he's still here and want to do everything I can to help."

Later this year, Mr Brewster will gets into the ring for charity with former world heavyweight champion Tim Witherspoon, who once knocked out Frank Bruno at Wembley. He said: "He's a former world champion, I'm probably mad. But it should be a really good night."

Tickets will be available in July for the October 21 fight, due at Brierley Hill Civic Centre.

Number of marriages within region falls by 10pc

THE number of people getting married in the Black Country and Staffordshire fell by around 10 per cent in 12 months, latest figures reveal.

A total of 7,296 couples tied the knot in religious or civil ceremonies, data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The number of marriages in 2013 – the latest statistics to be published – fell from 8,140 in 2012, a reduction of 10.3 per cent.

But the region mirrored the national picture which also saw a drop and it's believed people could have been avoiding the number '13' fearing it an unlucky year to get married. Financial reasons with Britain still recovering after the recession may also have had an impact.

Dudley saw the biggest drop of 22 per cent – with 893 couples getting married in 2013 compared with 1,155 during the previous year.

But Councillor John Martin, cabinet member for law and governance, said that numbers tying the knot at register offices and other approved venues in the borough had increased since then.

In Sandwell there was a 12 per cent reduction in the number of ceremonies with 672 in 2013, down from 770 in 2012. In Wolverhampton, there was a seven per cent drop with 789 couples getting married in 2012 compared with 733 in 2012 and in Walsall the number fell by around six per cent with 720 ceremonies in 2013 and 675 in 2012.

While in Staffordshire, the number dropped by 10 per cent from 4,806 in 2013 to 4,312 in 2012.

Choir chosen to sing at festival

YOUNG singers from the Black Country have been chosen to perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall in July.

Stourbridge's Got 2 Sing youth choir will take to the stage as part of the Music for Youth National Festival, from July 5 to 9.

It will involve around 40,000 young musicians from across the country. The choir, comprising 24 members aged from nine to 16, will perform on July 6.

Members will be singing Wings by Birdy, I See The Light from Tangled the movie and Adele's Rolling In The Deep. They will also be participating in several vocal workshops. For tickets and more information see www.thsh.co.uk

The choir will perform at Mary Stevens Hospice on June 12 to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

Bus goes through fence into garden

A BUS ended up in a front garden after smashing through a fence in Wordsley. The Diamond bus is believed to have rolled back into the fence before came to rest in the garden in Balmoral Road at around noon last Wednesday.

No-one was hurt.

Families hit out at lack of warnings for tourists

FAMILIES of the Tunisia terror attack victims have raised concerns about a lack of warnings for travellers, at the latest pre-inquest hearing.

Relatives of some of the 30 Britons murdered in the resort of Sousse in June last year fear not enough was done to alert holidaymakers of the terror risk in the country.

The attack in Sousse came just three months after 24 people – including Shropshire solicitor Sally Jane Adey – were killed at the Bardo Museum in Tunis in March.

Andrew Ritchie QC, who represents 17 families including Wednesbury's Suzy Richards – who lost her son Joel, brother Adrian and father Patrick in the Sousse massacre – said the Foreign Office had potentially failed to require holiday companies to warn Britons of the dangers.

Travel agents allegedly lowered their prices to try to 'entice' more Britons to Tunisia, after 24 people were killed in a terror attack at Bardo National Museum in the capital in March 2015.

Ms Richards has previously said that she remains concerned about travel operators continuing to offer cut price deals to the country. Foreign Office advice for travellers in June 2015 stated: "There is a high risk from terrorism, including kidnapping. Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners.

"This had only been produced online but we are going to consider, in light of future evidence, whether Her Majesty's Government should have imposed a duty of candour on the travel companies," Mr Ritchie said at the pre-inquest hearing into the deaths last Wednesday.

He said travel agents, including Thomson's parent company TUI, had told the Foreign Office that they intended to use 'reduced pricing strategies for further tourists to be enticed to Tunisia following the Bardo attack'.

Former nurse in fall died, 85

A RETIRED nurse who was due to have her leg amputated, died from complications after having a fall.

Joyce Hearnshaw, aged 85, was scheduled for the operation after developing sarcoma, a cancerous tumour, in her right leg. But she fractured her hip and femur in a fall at her home in Norman Road, Smethwick. Doctors deemed her unfit for surgery, and her condition deteriorated. She contracted a chest infection and died of pneumonia.

Russell Williams, coroner's officer, told Black Country Coroner's Court: "She lived independently."

Zafar Siddique, senior coroner for the Black Country, added: "She was found to have a fractured femur and fractured right hip. I record a conclusion of accidental death. I offer her family my condolences."

Trailer's message on illicit substances

The Community Matters trailer

A TRAILER promoting an anti-drugs message has gone on the road to warn people of the dangers of illicit substances.

The Community Matters trailer, which was unveiled in Tipton, is kitted out with a replica cannabis factory using equipment seized from police raids.

Chiefs hope it will help raise awareness of the dangers of drugs and encourage people to report suspected growers and dealers.

Within days of the 'weed 'em out' crackdown launching in Tipton last summer, police received information to obtain two search warrants for a house and factory, where they discovered cannabis worth an estimated street value of £32,000 in total.

On the back of the campaign's success, Tipton Police, Tipton Fire Station and Sandwell's Community Alcohol Partnership have launched the safety trailer, with support from the Safer Sandwell Partnership and West Midlands Fire Service.

They have also worked with young people from RSA Academy to design the outside of the Community Matters trailer, which will be available for use on a range of community issues.

Emergency services and authorities warned cannabis growers and dealers that they face jail or an unlimited fine; eviction and losing their home; are a fire risk to homes and neighbours; and that cannabis factories mean neighbours face higher electricity bills.

People who drive while intoxicated by cannabis also face arrest and a criminal conviction. For more details about the campaign visit http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/cannabis.

Phishing con wannabe rapper Khan, 23, jailed

A SCAM artist and wannabe rapper who tricked pensioners into handing over their savings has had his desperate attempts at writing rap music mocked mercilessly online.

Fraudster Jahangir Khan, from Glendower Road, Perry Barr, was jailed for three years and two months on Friday after admitting two counts of conspiracy to defraud.

He was found to be part of a 'phishing' scam, in which he and his co-conspirators scared elderly people into handing over bank details after claiming their accounts had been compromised. After the 23-year-old was jailed, West Midlands Police shared his lyrics online, alongside a tongue-in-cheek attempt by Detective Constable Dan Chappelow to translate the 'gangst' speak into the Queen's English.

In his rap, he claims to be 'da underground's finest', and boasts about driving a Lamborghini and getting 'bare honeys'.

Det Con Chappelow, who turned DC to MC, said: "You can't fault his imagination. Khan clearly saw himself as a respected kingpin of the criminal world… in his mind he was "da underground's finest" who drew respect from men and a magnet for adoring women.

Vulnerable

"The truth is that Khan is a coward who spent his time phoning elderly people and tricking them into parting with bank cards and PIN numbers with scare stories. Courier fraud deliberately targets the most vulnerable people in society. We had a go at translating his street slang verses… at least we can thank MC Khan for giving us all a good laugh."

Among Khan's victims was a 92-year-old woman, who he tricked into handing over bank cards and PIN numbers, claiming her account had been hacked. Detectives arrested him after finding photos of him showing off designer watches, jewellery and clothes.

Khan's co-conspirators were also sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court after pleading guilty to the same charges. Arafa Begum, 21, from Nechells was sentenced to eight months suspended for 21 months and ordered to do 150 hours of community service. Mohammed Miah, 21, from London, was jailed for three years and three months, and fellow Londoner Motahir Rahman, 24, was sentenced to 10 months suspended for 21 months, and ordered to carry out 150 hours community service.

Pupils drive home gratitude to hero

Coach driver, Paul Bingham, with pupils he helped rescue, with front, Joel Hodson and Ellie Leatherland

A HERO bus driver has been thanked in person by the pupils and staff from an Oldbury primary school he helped save after their coach burst into flames.

The group from Brandhall Primary School were on board a double-decker coach on the M6 when flames took hold. But they were taken to safety by Paul Bingham, who was driving an empty coach on the motorway and selflessly pulled over after he saw the blaze.

Head Liz Hart has labelled Mr Bingham a 'true hero' and invited him to the school for a personal thank you. Pupils penned touching notes of thanks in a giant card and sung to Mr Bingham in a special assembly on Friday.

He was also given presents to show the gratitude of all involved.

Mr Bingham, 44, who works for Eavesway Travel in Wigan, said: "It was great to be invited and I'm very proud. It was a touching moment." Miss Hart said: "He is a true hero and I would like to thank him sincerely."

The Year Five pupils had been returning from The National Space Centre in Leicester when the bus broke down near junction 3A for the M6 Toll at around 3.40pm on Monday. Thirteen children and the driver were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation, while four girls went to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Smoke plumes as factory goes up

SMOKE filled the skyline as four fire crews battled a blaze at a derelict factory in West Bromwich.

West Midlands Fire Service received eight calls about the smoke and sent engines from West Bromwich, Tipton and Wednesbury to a former carpet factory in Black Lake shortly before 4.30pm last Wednesday.

The blaze was suspected to be an arson attack.

Matthew Smith, a fire service spokesman, said: "We initially received a 999 call at 4.21pm about a fire in a factory in Bilhay Lane."

Bench to mark fallen unveils

A MEMORIAL bench honouring soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War is to be installed in West Bromwich, it has been announced.

The bench will be unveiled in Stone Cross on Saturday, as a tribute to servicemen from the area who fought in the Great War.

It has been commissioned to mark 100 years since the conflict and was made in Aberdeen.

People are invited to attend the official unveiling which will take place in Walsall Road, near the old Stone Cross pub, from 11am.

£5,5000 raised at dragon boat race

SHOP staff raised more than £5,000 for Dudley-based White House Cancer Support (WHCS) at this year's dragon boat race at Himley Hall.

A team from Midcounties Co-operative stores in Tipton, Sedgley, Tividale and Kingswinford competed in various heats of 350 yards across the Great Pool. Their efforts generated £5,500.

Charity manager Caroline Webb said: "It is an amazing amount and we are absolutely over the moon."

Nurse presented with a national accolade

A DUDLEY nurse who helps patients with learning disabilities has won a top national award.

Jacqui Howells, learning disabilities liaison nurse for The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, was handed the good nurse accolade at the Great British Care Awards.

"Receiving a national award means so much to me but the fact that my patients nominated me and think that I am a good nurse makes it even more special," she said.

Search for relatives

RELATIVES of an elderly woman who died are being sought by the Black Country Coroner's office. Barbara Davies died last Wednesday at Merridale Court in Wolverhampton. She was born on August 10, 1925. Anyone with information should contact Wendy Plummer on 0121 569 7200.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

AS another Chelsea Flower Show slips into history, I reflect once again on the endless joys of gardening and how profoundly grateful I am that people find time to do it. Other people.

SUCH is the march of the mobile phone that many landline phones barely ring from one day to the next. In fact, this week comes a new landmark; it is now reckoned that half of all landline calls are nuisance calls. I took one only the other day. A call-centre lady, speaking in a strong Indian accent began, in all seriousness: "Hello. My name is Cherie Johnson." I informed her that my name was Father Christmas. We hung up at the same moment.

WHEN will they ever learn? In the 2001 Census, nearly 400,000 Brits declared their religion as "Jedi knight." In this year's competition to find a name for the UK's new research vessel, more than 100,000 voted for "Boaty McBoatface." You might imagine that by now the authorities would have realised you can no longer ask the Great British Public a sensible question and get a sensible answer. We are now told that the 2021 Census may include a question on our sexuality and gender. Let me be the first to out myself as Neutral McNewtface.

AS is so often the case, life imitates Brian. There is a scene in Monty Python's Life of Brian when a bunch of soothsayers are vying for the attention of passers-by with their prophecies. One unusually precise soothsayer, speaking in a strong Ulster accent, declares that: "For the demon shall bear a nine-bladed sword. Nine-bladed! Not two or five or seven, but nine." I am reminded of him as the Remain lobby assure us with great precision that if we leave the EU the average cost of a family's shopping will rise by exactly £220 while GDP will drop by precisely 3.6 per cent and 820,000 jobs – not 800,000 or 850,000 - will be lost. Coming soon: the Brexit plague of 1,999,997 locusts.

THE university of East Anglia has advised students not to throw their mortar boards into the air at their graduation ceremonies but to choose the "safer" option of miming the throw and having images of mortar boards digitally added to the photos. How many students have been slain by falling mortar boards is not disclosed. If the traditional graduate headgear is so dangerous, perhaps students should throw something else into the air, something light that all students possess and will cause no injury. Unpaid electricity bills, overdraft refusals, county-court judgments and so on.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Fire spreads from bin to factory

FIREFIGHTERS battled a blaze at an industrial estate in Wednesbury.

West Midlands Fire and Rescue received a 999 call to the incident in Globe Street at 9.50am last Wednesday.

Five crews were initially sent to extinguish the fire at the factory, which had spread from a bin.

No casualties were reported in the fire.

The fire was extinguished by 10.30am, with one crew still at the scene damping down. Spokesman, Matthew Smith, said: "We were called to a bin fire that had spread to a factory unit with reports that there was smoke coming through the roof.

"The call came at 9.50am in the morning but it was already under control by half past 10.

"Everything is under control and by about half 10 the fire had been extinguished. We had two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and used one hose reel jet and one safety jet to stop the blaze.

"We had five engines there in total but that was due to the layout of it all as access to the building was restricted."

Crews from the Technical Rescue Unit based at Bickenhill and Wednesbury Fire Station, West Bromwich Fire Station, Bilston Fire Station worked to put the fire out.

The incident comes after fire crews battled a blaze to tyres and rubbish near a derelict building in Wednesbury over the weekend.

The fire on Darlaston Road, which took place on May 22, was described as 'large' by the West Midlands Fire Service.

Distraction burglar gets seven year term

by John Scott

A CROOK who stole an elderly woman's life savings of thousands of pounds on her 89th birthday has been jailed for seven years.

Wayne Greene and another man tricked her into believing she needed some gardening doing after making a cold call at her home, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

As one of them took the vulnerable woman – who is not being named for her own protection – to the back garden to discuss the proposal, the other slipped into her Oldbury bungalow on December 3 last year.

During a short search he found the tin box in which the cash was kept in a drawer in her bedroom and grabbed it along with her will and birth certificate.

Greene, aged 33, and his accomplice – who has not been traced – escaped with their haul from the address that the victim shares with the ill brother she cares for.

Alerted

But the thieves were seen carrying the tin from the address by a neighbour who was driving past and suspected they were up to no good. Andrew Watson called in to see her, realised she had almost certainly fallen victim to a distraction burglary and alerted the police. Greene was arrested the next day and was later identified as the culprit by both Mr Watson and the victim.

The defendant was on bail after a bungled raid on the Hot Shots snooker club in Crosswells Road, Oldbury during which he was caught red handed stealing a safe containing £10,000, revealed Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting.

Greene smashed a hole in the wall to gain access but made so much noise that police were alerted and arrested him at the scene. The unopened safe was found nearby.

Greene from Hurst Road, Smethwick admitted that offence and was convicted of the distraction burglary by a jury who took just 18 minutes to reach their verdict.

Youngsters in celebration for royal-tea

From left, pupils Leshay Beckford, Oliver Lonsdale, Mandlenkosi Ndlovu and Rana Sahar, all aged eight

YOUNGSTERS at a Smethwick primary school have enjoyed a week of right royal fun with a series of activities related to the Queen's birthday.

Pupils from Crocketts Community have spent all this week taking part in events to mark Her Majesty's 90th.

This culminates with a whole school procession. Last Wednesday, staff and students dressed up 'posh' and enjoyed an afternoon tea.

Social, moral, spiritual and cultural co-ordinator Jenny Durnall said the week had been a resounding success. She said: "We wanted to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday as it is such a big national event and we wanted to mark that event here at the school.

"We wanted the children to treat the school as if it was a day at Buckingham Palace. We started with etiquette lessons – they were learning to speak properly like the Queen, practising walking tall and practising table manners. All the things that the Queen would expect at Buckingham Palace.

"Because it was a 'posh day' all the staff and children came in in posh clothes and it was a really well supported event. It all finished off with an afternoon tea - the children made cucumber sandwiches and had cakes.

"The feedback from staff, parents and children has been really positive. I've got the reception class and they were coming in the next day still wanting to practise walking tall and doing all the things we did. It had a hugely positive atmosphere across the school."

One million visitors from abroad sets Brum record

BIRMINGHAM attracted a record million international visitors last year.

The latest figures from the Office for National Statistics found that the city was the fourth most visited place in the UK based on the number of 'global guests'.

Birmingham enjoyed an increase of 163,000 visitors – 17.3 per cent more – than in 2014 when 944,000 international visitors came to the second city.

For a second consecutive year, this was the largest increase for any city outside London.

Consumer spend by foreign visitors reached £386 million – an increase of £87m on 2014 – and it was the fourth highest of any UK city and only eight per cent lower than London.

The city's strong tourist appeal was further enhanced in 2015 by a high proportion of international business visitors. With 619,000 visits recorded, Birmingham again saw the highest growth of any city outside London. This is 120,000 (19.4 per cent) up on the figure for 2014 (499,000) and the largest rise of any UK regional city.

Councillor John Clancy, leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "These figures are great news for Birmingham, confirming the city's international standing and growing appeal.

"More people are discovering Birmingham and its surrounding areas than ever before.

"With over £1 billion of investment in the region in the last year, Greater Birmingham is experiencing record levels of growth."

Gallery to stage first solo display

THE Art Yard in Cradley Heath is about to stage its first solo exhibition – 'Review', a retrospective of etchings, drawings and short films by Fran Wilde.

The exhibition at the gallery in Reddal Hill Road runs from Tuesday June 7, to Saturday, July 2 and is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm. There is a special 'meet the artist' event on Sunday, June 19 from 11am to 3pm.

Fran Wilde studied Fine Art in Birmingham in the 1980s and went on to a career in gallery education.

She came to live in Cradley Heath four years ago.

The Art Yard opened in April and is curated by Louise Blakeway and Warren McCabe-Smith. Further details are on Facebook and 07952 563725.

Quartet performs for jazz session

THE Patsy Gamble Quartet will be the next band to perform in the latest Jazz at the Bonded Warehouse season in Stourbridge.

The concert is on Friday, June 10, at 7.30pm with tickets on the door at the Canal Street venue costing £8.

UK safer to stay within the EU says crime chief

WEST Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has said it is 'vital' that the UK stays in Europe.

He believes staying in the EU is essential in the fight against major crimes such as human trafficking and terrorism. The UK will go to the polls on June 23 to decide whether to stay in Europe or leave.

Mr Jamieson said: "The outcome of the EU referendum is the most important decision for the people of the UK will make in 50 years.

"The West Midlands currently gains a lot from its strong links with EU partners, especially on the big issues such as terrorism."

The commissioner said that staying in the EU would help combat criminal gangs who are 'highly mobile' and 'tech-savvy' and work without geographical boundaries.

Another example of benefitting from staying in the EU would be the ability to enforce a European Arrest Warrant, according to Mr Jamieson.

He said: "Organised crime gangs are spreading their tentacles far and wide. Gone are the days when criminals would operate in one single area.

"Today, they are highly mobile, tech-savvy with no geographic boundaries. Our enforcement needs to be equally mobile and work across national boundaries.

"The European Arrest Warrant, meanwhile, means faster and simpler surrender procedures for suspects.

"International crime requires an international response."

Inquest told of asbestos work

A 77-YEAR-OLD man from Great Barr died after working with asbestos while in the Navy, an inquest heard.

Peter Sullivan died in Sandwell Hospital on May 15. He had been been admitted for pneumonia and fluid on the lungs a few days previously but was released to be cared for at home before being re-admitted.

The hearing in Smethwick was told how Mr Sullivan worked on submarines from 1954 to 1960 and would have been subject to asbestos. In later years he worked as a bricklayer.

The medical cause of death given was lung-related disease, asbestos and prostate cancer.

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "I give my verdict that he died by way of industrial disease."

College collects for foodbank

HALESOWEN College students and staff collected 1,049 items for Brierley Hill's Black Country Foodbank.

It took three weeks, and items including food, personal care and baby food were donated.

Fan in plea as shirt 'comes home'

Steve Plant with the mystery shirt

A DUSTY attic in a house near the west coast of Canada wouldn't be high on a list of places you'd expect to find an incredibly old and rare artefact in Wolves' history.

But that's exactly where a Wolves shirt dating back 106 years was found – and then brought back to Wolverhampton. The shirt will now form a key part of a new book charting the history of Wolves' shirts.

Wolves fan Steve Plant has painstakingly put together the book, which is set to launch in October, featuring more than 200 pages of shirts and the stories behind them. And now he has accrued a 'real coup' in the form of a shirt – in pristine condition – which he believes dates back to 1910.

Steve said: "A man from Canada who does house clearances, and has got a bric-a-brac shop and sells this on, found this ancient gold and black shirt while he doing a house clearance. At first he thought it was an old ice hockey shirt. But then he spent quite a bit of time researching it and found that it closely resembled Wolves' 1921 FA Cup Final shirt.

"He put something out on Facebook and a couple of people who knew about my book spotted it, and put him in touch with me." The shirt was posted to Wolverhampton. But its origins remain a mystery.

There is a suggestion it may have belonged to John Brodie, who played a part in the club's formation, with his family believed to have emigrated to Canada. Steve added: "It's very, very rare and a real coup for the book."

If anyone can shed any light on the history of the 1910 shirt, or has any other rare Wolves shirts, they can contact Steve on 07973 891390.

Watchdog highlights issues on agency care

PATIENTS cared for by a Sandwell agency are at risk of taking the wrong medicine because of staff failings when checking records, a report has found.

Unique Care Network, based in Smethwick, has a team of around 20 carers proving home care to people with various conditions across the borough.

An inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) found that while some progress had been made over the last year, overall improvements are required.

There was particular criticism of how medical records are checked by staff. Bosses said they respected the report's findings and recognised there is 'room for improvement.'

On medicine records, the inspectors said: "We found that medicines were now itemised on medicine records which properly detailed the name of the medicines and quantity staff were supporting people to take. This was an improvement from our last inspection.

Signature

"However, we saw, as we had during our previous inspection, that where staff had handwritten the medicine records and there was no second staff signature, or that of the person who used the service, to confirm that what was written was correct. This meant that there could be a potential risk of a person being supported to take the wrong medicine."

Unique Care, which has offices at Sandwell Business Development Centre in Oldbury Road, provides support to the elderly, people with learning difficulties and provides support with everyday tasks including cooking meals and shopping.

When last inspected in June 2015, the CQC found the quality monitoring of the service breached legal requirements prompting Sandwell Council to suspend new placements.

That suspension has since been lifted with an agreement they will not fund more than ten care packages at any time. The latest report found quality monitoring had improved and was now law abiding. But in other areas more work was needed, the report said.

The network's manager, Gabriel Sichangwa, said: "We have made tremendous strides to improve over the last year. The inspector was quite happy with systems we have put in. However I would recognise that there is still room for improvement"

Stan's chip shop is batter by far

Stan Menicou receives his prize from Tim Morris of the Express & Star

A TIPTON takeaway has come out on top in the search for Sandwell's Chip Shop of the Year.

Family-run Victoria Chippy in Owen Street serves up traditional fish and chips in its own secret batter mix.

The shop is run by 66-year-old Stan Menicou, who started the business in 1996.

Stan, who runs the shop with his son and daughter-in-law, said: "We are very proud of the award, of course. We always knew we had the best fish shop in the area but now we have official confirmation.

"We have always made the best product – everybody who comes in the shop says how much they like it. I would like to say thanks to all our customers who have supported us," he added.

"I put our success down to our cleanliness, quality and freshness.

"We clean the pans every day and wash them out each week. Fish and chips always taste better with clean oil."

To mark the shop's 20th anniversary, Stan will be holding an open day next month.

The competition was organised by the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star, which said the response from readers was 'amazing'.

The runner-up was Hydes Road Chippy in Wednesbury, and third was The Port in Tipton.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rubbish blaze in derelict building

FIRE crews tackled a blaze involving tyres and rubbish in Wednesbury. The incident took place in Darlaston Road at around 3pm on Sunday, May 22.

It is believed the fire was beside a derelict building. A West Midlands Fire Service spokesperson said: "The fire involved vehicle tyres and general rubbish which were on fire in a yard.

"They were also adjacent to a large quantity of steel drums.

"We received a call just after 3pm and sent four engines from Bilston, Wednesbury, Willenhall and West Bromwich."

Church to mark 175th anniversary

CHRIST Church, in Birmingham Street, Oldbury, will be holding a weekend of celebrations next month to marks its 175th anniversary.

An open morning has been arranged for Saturday, July 9 from 10am to midday. Visitors will be welcome to view Terry Daniels's historical display and share memories of the church. On the same day, Warley Male Choir are in concert at 7pm. Tickets are £5 available from the church or on the door.

The following day, a Festival Communion Service will be led by the Bishop of Aston, at 11.15am.

MPs back bid to stop Bugle move

SEVEN MPs have written to Trinity Mirror's chief executive Simon Fox to riase concerns about plans to cut staff and move the Black Country Bugle from Dudley to Tamworth.

The media group plans to axe three staff, including the editor and at least one reporter, to leave a staff of two reporters working remotely

The MPs include Dudley North's Ian Austin, David Winnick, John Spellar, Rob Marris, Valerie Vaz, Adrian Bailey and Emma Reynolds.

Perrott Arms to make way for apartments

A FORMER pub in Oldbury is set to be knocked down to make way for 22 apartments.

The old Perrott Arms at the junction of Birmingham Road and Flash Road would be flattened under the plans while empty shop units will also go. A row of apartments would be built on the site under plans which have been lodged with Sandwell Council.

The development would feature 18 two-bedroom and four one-bedroom homes.

G&S theme for choir

HALESOWEN Choral Society will be performing a concert that celebrates The Magic of Gilbert & Sullivan on July 2. Tickets for the concert at Hasbury Methodist Church in Albert Road, Halesowen. cost £6.

To book call 0121 550 7206 or email tickets@halesowenchoralsociety.org

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Warden's moan just ticket for hypocrisy

YOU know that parking enforcement is going too far when even the traffic wardens are complaining about it.

After years of platitudes about "keeping the traffic moving" and "keeping the public safe", a disgruntled warden in Dudley has revealed they are being told to issue an average of 4.7 tickets each a day to meet budget targets.

I would love to say that comes as a surprise, but really it is right up there with the revelation that Big Daddy used to like his grub.

It has long been my belief that the vast majority of parking tickets are nothing to do with either road safety or the free flow of traffic.

They are simply councils fining people for minor breaches of rules that they dreamt up themselves.

And ticketing targets for traffic wardens are the price we pay for the dreadful decision to take parking enforcement away from the police and to hand it over to local authorities.

Well here's an idea. Let's get rid of all civil parking wardens, the whole lot of them, and use the money to take on a few extra police. It might only be a handful of extra officers, but I'm sure they will come in handy.

And in return? Well, leave it to the police to deal with the small number of instances where there is a real issue of public safety or obstruction.

That will, of course, mean there is nobody to enforce the majority of parking offences, the ones that are nothing to do with public safety but simply people parking in places the council does not approve of. Never mind, I'm sure life will go on.

■ ■ ■

FANTASTIC story about burglary victim Yannick Read, who responded to the theft of his £1,000 racing bike by coming up with what surely must be the ultimate anti-theft device.

His gadget not only features a 150-decibel siren, but also a shotgun-style cartridge packed with gunpowder. This means the bike really does go up in smoke if some light-fingered little low-life tries to half-inch it. What's not to like?

What I don't understand, though, is why anyone would spend £1,000 on a bike. Maybe I'm sounding like the dad off the Yellow Pages advert.

■ ■ ■

DR HENRY Heimlich, who invented the lifesaving Heimlich manoeuvre in 1974, used his own technique for the first time last week.

The 96-year-old performed the procedure on a fellow resident of a care home in Cincinatti.

In the US alone, the manoeuvre is credited with saving 100,000 lives. Oh, and David Walliams used it when Simon Cowell choked on a mint. Swings and roundabouts, I guess.

The rustic bridge, based on one from 1925

An old picture showing how it all used to be

One of the rooms for weddings and conferences

A view of the Shakespeare garden

On the staircase that has been boxed in to protect it

With the plaque to royal gardener John Tradescant

Bringing Lightwoods back to former glory

As work continues on Lightwoods House in Smethwick, **HEATHER LARGE** reveals its uncovered treasures

THEY'VE been hidden away for years but now historic features at a Sandwell Grade II-listed house will proudly be going back on show as part of a £5.2million restoration project.

William Morris wallpaper, grand ceiling decorations and colourful wall stencils are among the little bits of history uncovered by workers at Lightwoods House in Smethwick.

Since the house was built within the 16-acre Lightwoods Park in 1791, it's had many uses. But after the last occupants, stained glass artists John Hardman & Co Ltd, moved out eight years ago, it fell into a bad state of repair.

In February last year, a long-awaited project to bring the property back into use for the community got under way by Sandwell Council with the help of the Friends of Lightwoods House and Park.

Conferencing

This is has seen the roof repaired and retiled, windows and doors replaced and rotten wood removed. All of the rooms are being renovated and by next spring will be used for offices, a tea room, exhibition space, conferencing and training events, a children's centre and weddings.

"It's great seeing the house changing. The outside looks great. We haven't seen the front looking so crisp and smart for a long time. On the ground floor there will be offices and the large former master bedroom which can be used for conferencing or weddings," said Julia Morris, community engagement officer for Lightwoods House and Park. Discoveries made during the renovation work will go on show once the project has been completed to ensure they are preserved for future generations.

They include original decorative ceiling cornices found in some of the rooms, which have been saved and will be replicated with help of students from Sandwell College.

William Morris wallpaper was uncovered in the master bedroom when they stripped back the ceiling and a former safe room with a heavy steel door.

Slates used on the roof are reclaimed and have been inscribed with messages from local schoolchildren.

While stencil designs were found on a wall by the main staircase and their story was told by an apprentice for John Hardman & Co Ltd, who helped create them. It's believed they have been there for around 15 years.

"We found out that an apprentice held the stencil on the wall while the artist painted. We found this out when the apprentice visited on a house tour we ran. He got told off by the boss so the design was unfinished. We plan to leave it on show and put a plaque on the wall explaining how it came about," said Julia.

It's not just the house which is undergoing a transformation. A play area has already been finished and is being enjoyed by local children. A rustic bridge has been installed, based on the design taken from an old photograph of the bridge that was there in around 1925. A new pond and wildlife area will be created nearby. Work has also begun to bring the 19th century bandstand, which will be licensed for weddings, back to life.

Also due to get a makeover is the Shakespeare garden at the back of the house, which is home to a tribute to royal gardener John Tradescant, and the drinking fountains.

Educational and events programmes are also planned for the park and house which will give people the chance to discover and learn about the park's heritage and wildlife as well volunteering and training to enable volunteers to help care for the site.

In the future, it is hoped the site can secure a Green Flag and a Green Heritage Award.

Construction work is expected to be finished in the autumn and an official opening is due to take place in the spring.

From left, Julia Morris, council leader Steve Eling, and Richard Marshall, at Lightwoods Park

Part of the ornate cornice detail on the ceiling

Uncovered – William Morris wall coverings

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No changes being made in UK politics

I HAVE been reading issues in Sandwell Chronicle about change being needed in UK politics, by Mr A J Hunt, of West Bromwich. I see he has come to the same conclusion as a few more people – why should we bother to vote?

M P Williams of Great Barr is in the same frame of mind – the Government and councillors are wasting our time and money, and I agree with him. You have Councillor Mike Bird, of Walsall Council, blaming the referendum for the low turnout, I notice they never blame themselves for anything.

Then you have Sandwell's acting council leader Steve Eling bragging about the results in Sandwell being a testament to the hard work Labour councillors do in Sandwell and the good job they have done to protect people against government budget cuts.

I wonder if he could explain what these councillors have done for us, especially when I wrote to him and other councillors about our problems and they ran away. He also forgot to mention the £699 million that has been paid out to UK councillors in allowances over the last three years and the increasing allowance the councillors have been giving themselves while continuing to cut services budgets elsewhere, while people are losing their jobs and have to struggle.

This is why they are fighting to become councillors and MPs and trying to make it a family affair – this just shows you what they think of the public. How many times have you heard of councillors or MPs go on strike for better conditions and pay since they make their own rules?

J RUSHTON
Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

So tired of Tories' fear factor

I AM a dyed in the wool Conservative. I have been a foot soldier for Conservative candidates for over 30 Years. I have stood as a Conservative candidate in over 20 Elections.

I have been the Conservative agent on three occasions at both general and local Elections. I even stood as the Conservative in a school mock election when I was 14 in 1960, through choice.

But now I am getting very tired of the scaremongering that is coming out to the mouths of Messrs Cameron and Osborne. It is getting very difficult to believe a word they say. It is all 'It could be, might be or perhaps it could happen'.

Those of us of an age Voted to become members of the Common Market. We have never been asked to vote to become members of the United States of Europe and be ruled by europe which is happening.

EWART J JOHNSON
Smethwick

Royal tears may have been for loss of Army

YES in the past I've wrote about this, but on May 18, you had a photo of the Queen putting a wreath at a statue at the National Arboretum, with another amalgamation of three regiments (Kings own Border Regiment, Kings Regiment, Queen Lancashire Regiment) all rolled into one (Duke of Lancasters) – getting rid of the Army bit by bit.

This has gone on ever since World War Two ended, both Tory and Labour governments, as with my old regiment and regiments rolled into one. There was another lot includes the Middlesex Regiment, The Buffs, Hampshire, and four others, seven rolled into one, now called the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment and the Staffords and Warwicks plus the Worcester's Local Regiment names we used to know gone.

The Devon and Dorsets now the Rifles, also that famous regiment the Gloucesters along with the Wiltshires and Berkshires just called the Rifles, then there is all the Yorkshire and Welsh Regiments amalgamated. Yes the Queen shed a tear because she really knows what's happened to her Army, disappeared in such a crafty way.

F H JENNINGS,
Ex Leicestershires, 2nd Bn Lincolns, Birmingham

Paddocks may help with issue

YOUR recent coverage of the large contingent of travellers whom had set up residence on the side of the road in West Bromwich, had me thinking about a possible solution.

Travellers by their very nature and how they fund their lives have to continuously move around, so as not to overkill an area, and thus will never be happy in a purpose-built set area of land.

From recent reports it seems there is a preference for grassed land, be it football fields, parks or even alongside the highway.

So why doesn't the council build several 'free paddocks' as it were, sporadically placed around the borough – just flat open areas of land easily maintained and open for all travellers.

I am sure the cost would be far less than the present charges for the clean ups and added security measures.

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A blooming success for floral tribute to Willard

MINIATURE art specialist Willard Wigan is blooming from his success at the Chelsea Flower Show and is set to bring his award-winning designs to Brum.

Birmingham City Council's entry at the show celebrated both Wolverhampton-based Willard's work and grassroots sport.

Called One Small Step, the display used Willard's needle-sized artworks as a starting point, combined with a number of ways to get active.

Featured in the Grand Pavilion at the show, which ended on Saturday, the entry was designed to inspire people to get involved in sport, with football, boxing and cricket all highlighted.

Willard, who grew up in Wednesfield, said being part of the famous flower show was an 'honour.

"Birmingham has always proudly represented me and I've always been proud to represent Birmingham," he said. "It is an honour and a pleasure to be involved in Birmingham's display at Chelsea. We tend to disregard the little things that we can't see but my sculptures have a very big impact."

Birmingham council's head of parks, Darren Share MBE, said: "It is wonderful to bring home another gold for Birmingham and I'd like to thank Willard Wigan for working with us on this incredible design.

"I'd also like to thank the team who have again demonstrated their skills combining structural elements with beautiful plants grown in the city's nurseries and hot house. Through this now award winning design we have been able to shine a light on Birmingham's creativity.

"The display will be recreated in Cannon Hill Park alongside an exhibition of Willard's work at the Midland Arts Centre throughout June."

The design's wicker hummingbird, Mo Farah's Mobot and Usain Bolt's pose

Willard Wigan cuts the ribbon for the Birmingham City Council display

The display is split into three different elements – the needles, activity and sport. The first element consists of a five metre tall needle, with two other needles stretching across the display.

One has water pouring around the eye, the second has a line of hardy gerbera running through the middles and the third holds a carpet-bedded punch ball and a pair of wicker boxing gloves.

The 'activity' element is a wicker recreation of one of Wigan's artworks, two children playing on a see saw.

A hummingbird is in a group of metal birds to represent walking in the park. The 'sport' element features a life-size rower and two figures in Mo Farah's 'Mobot' and Usain Bolt's trademark lighting bolt pose, all made out of wicker.

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Going halves on library demolition

A crack has emerged giving pedestrians a rare sight through the old brutalist building. Picture: Councillor Roger Harmer

THIS soaring sight of the progress of the demolition of the old Central Library in Birmingham shows how the former iconic building has now been split in two. Diggers have ploughed through the landmark as demolition teams progress with the £500 million Paradise Birmingham redevelopment.

The development was hailed as the catalyst for transforming the city centre earlier in the year, with workers from Birmingham-based demolition specialist DSM tasked with the major overhaul of the land. The Paradise Circus development, renamed Paradise Birmingham, is being cleared ready for the development of new offices, a hotel and shops surrounding a remodelled Chamberlain Square.

The new buildings will be used for leisure and hotel use. A hotel and open air walkways will also be created on the area currently occupied by the library. Traffic has been rerouted around Paradise Circus island with work on this stage due to finish this summer.

The old Central Library shut after the new £188 million Library of Birmingham opened in 2013.

Salvation Army plans

A FORMER Blockbuster store in West Bromwich will be turned into a Salvation Army base, after plans were given the green light. A planning application to change the use of the shop in Dudley Street was submitted to Sandwell Council last month.

Now council planners have ruled the former video rental premises can become a Salvation Army donation centre with a charity shop, after passing the plans.

Museum masterplan outlined by bosses

MORE details have been revealed about an £18 million masterplan for the future of the Black Country Living Museum.

And bosses have urged members of the public to have their say on the vision for its future. The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley currently attracts around 300,000 visitors a year.

Chiefs are hoping to increase this to 500,000 in their 10-year forward plan.

Bosses are currently seeking funding for the ambitious development, which could include moving the entrance to the site from Tipton Road to Castle Hill.

Chief executive Andrew Lovett said this would link the venue to Castle Hill and provide visitors with one shared arrival point to four attractions – Dudley Zoo, Dudley Archives, Dudley Canal Trips and the museum.

Other proposals include a brand new visitor centre, an exhibition space to display more of the museum's collection as well as retail and café facilities.

Under the plans, visitors would emerge from the new

By David Cosgrove

visitor centre into a bustling 1940s to 1960s town featuring a working library lending books, new shops and restaurants including a corner pub, housing and a bowling green.

Visitors have been asked to share their thoughts on an online survey. Mr Lovett said: "At the moment on the site we don't really tell the story of the Black Country beyond about 1938 or so.

"One of the things that's driving us is the drive to complete that story and take people into the 40s, 50s and 60s. We think this is an opportunity to complement all the investment that's gone into the Castle Hill area." To take part in the survey visit www.bclm.com/vision.

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Voluntary trust set to take over department

AN under-fire children's services department will be run by a voluntary trust after failing to improve quickly enough, it has been announced.

By David Cosgrove

Last Tuesday it was confirmed that the department at Birmingham City Council is to be taken over, and follows an inadequate Ofsted report in 2009 and an ongoing three-year review into its performance.

The department has previously been labelled a "national disgrace" by Ofsted chief inspector Sir Michael Wilshaw. Previous high-profile cases of child deaths in the city, including those of two-year-old Keanu Williams in 2011 and seven-year-old Khyra Ishaq in 2008, had led to the department and other agencies coming under fire.

A Department for Education spokesman said: "Nothing is more important than keeping children safe.

"Although Birmingham City Council has made some improvements to the way it runs its children's services, we know this progress has not gone far enough, fast enough. The council recognises this and that's why we are working together to look at the steps that now need to be taken to make sure children and families in Birmingham receive the best possible care and support.

"The Prime Minister was clear that we cannot tolerate failure in children's services. That is why we are looking at the best next steps including moving towards a voluntary trust."

A city council spokesman said: "As part of Birmingham City Council's improvement journey it is the intention to move to a new model of children's services – a voluntary trust. We are now at the start of the third year of our plan and it is acknowledged by our Children's Services Commissioner that expected progress has been made."

Get ready for a smashing summer

Lee Marks, Sandwell Leisure Trust sports development officer and tennis coach Liam Stokes at Tipton Sports Academy

FREE tennis training for children is on offer in Sandwell this summer thanks to the success of Andy Murray and the Great Britain team at the Davis Cup.

Youngsters aged from five to eight years will be able to sign up for a free place on a six-week block of mini tennis coaching at Tipton Sports Academy during June and July.

Sandwell Leisure Trust's sport development and physical activity team applied for the funding from The Lawn Tennis Association's Davis Cup Legacy Programme.

Sports development officer, Lee Marks, said: "Sessions will be led by our professional tennis coaches who will teach the children all the shots and skills whilst playing lots of fun games. Team GB's success in the Davis Cup has created fantastic opportunities for children to take up this fun sport and perhaps create a tennis star of the future."

The Tennis For Kids programme was set up by the Lawn Tennis Association following the success of the Great Britain Team at the Davis Cup last year. To book onto the Tennis For Kids courses visit clubspark.lta.org.uk search for Tipton.

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Noise initiative launches aimed to help tenants

AN initiative to reduce "noisy neighbour" problems facing tenants in high-rise homes in Sandwell has been launched by housing officers, CCTV staff, wardens and the council's anti-social behaviour team.

The council has launched efforts to reduce the noise problems which are one of the most-reported issues facing tenants in multi-storey blocks of flats.

Housing and CCTV staff linked up with police officers, wardens and anti-social behaviour officers to visit several high-rise blocks where this nuisance had been reported. It was part of a special "Noise Action Week" that saw officers carry out further proactive work to deal with the problem.

Councillor Syeda Khatun, deputy leader and cabinet member for neighbourhoods and communities, said: "This initiative was devised to get the message home to people living in these blocks that noise nuisance will be dealt with – and to give assistance to tenants who want to report regular noise abuse."

Jason Flannagan, CCTV and Concierge manager said: "We arranged an event where a team went out and knocked tenants' doors to discuss noise nuisance. We discussed with tenants what can and can't be reported as noise nuisance."

Baggies Rondon digs deep to help woman with life-changing surgery

THE plight of a 92-year-old woman who could not afford a life-changing operation touched the heart of West Bromwich Albion striker Salomon Rondon who paid for her surgery, it has emerged.

Ana Prato has dubbed the Venezuelan footballer 'my guardian angel' after taking her first steps in five years.

The Baggies have also praised their £12 million record signing who offered to help the wheelchair-bound pensioner when he was contacted by a charity. The player agreed to fund her medical fees, and spoke to her on Skype to break the good news.

The forward, who joined Albion 10 months ago from Russian club Zenit, was brought up in the same city – the Venezuelan capital Caracas – as Ana but in vastly different circumstances.

Rondon enjoyed a middle-class upbringing by his mother and father, a chemistry professor in a military school. But for the majority of people, life is hard, with shortages of food and medical supplies.

Venezualan Ana Prato, aged 92, who has been wheelchair-bound for five years

Rondon in his Albion kit

The player was approached by El Quirofano de la Esperanza, which arranges operations and funding for people across Latin America on low incomes who cannot afford to pay for much-needed surgery. Rondon, 26, is seen on a promotional video by the project talking to Ana. After introducing himself, he tells her in their native Spanish: "I have good news, I want you to know that I'll help you. I want you to walk again. I want you to be able to leave the wheelchair – and straight away."

After the operation, Ana, an invalid since breaking her hip five years ago, is seen walking with the aid of a zimmer frame after the operation. She said: "Salomon Rondon is my guardian angel. Thank you Salomon." The charity was full of praise for the player's 'solidarity' with a struggling Venezuelan. A spokesman said: "This great footballer made Ana's dream come true. Salomon fully funded the surgery and he returned to her a smile that had been lost."

Recalling his childhood in an interview earlier this year, Rondon said he was one of the lucky ones. He remembered 'poor people, humble people, people who were struggling' . He added: "I was a kid who wanted for nothing thanks to my family." The striker recently hit out at the Venezuelan Football Federation after its former president was arrested on suspicion of receiving bribes worth millions of dollars.

A West Bromwich Albion spokesman said today: "It is fantastic to see such a kind and generous gesture from one of our players. It is testament to Salomon's character and nature. He has become a popular member of the squad since arriving last summer and is very highly thought of both on and off the pitch."

Former Frankie Goes to Hollywood star Holly Johnson seen in action

Easy as ABC for fabulous fun from 80s

Tiffany, who will be performing at the country park

ABC's Martin Fry, with guitarist Matt Backer, watched by a huge crowd. The band has a new single out, Viva Love

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

LET'S Rock Birmingham! The Retro Festival takes place on Saturday June 11 at Sandwell Valley Country Park.

With a fabulous line-up of artists to bring you the very best of the 80s, and an action packed day of general 80s madness – there is plenty to do for everyone at this family friendly festival.

The confirmed acts are Holly Johnson, Kim Wilde, Jimmy Somerville, ABC, Midge Ure, Go West, Nick Heyward, Five Star, Altered Images, Dr and the Medics, and Brother Beyond. Tiffany also returns to the UK stage, making her first appearance here in many years.

Let's Rock Birmingham! is aimed at the whole family. Children can enjoy a huge amount of stuff to keep them occupied, including circus workshops with the Bigtopmania Circus, face painting, crafts, tricycles and the 'Disco Shack'!

There will be a super funfair as well as children's entertainers, meaning Let's Rock Birmingham! offers the perfect day out for all the family. There will also be multiple bars, plus a wide range of quality food outlets selling food from around the world.

VIP tickets allow access to a funky 80s-themed VIP enclosure, where you can sit back and relax in the comfy chill out zone or enjoy the outdoor seating area.

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Let's Rock! has been leading the way for quality, action-packed, family-friendly 80s music festivals since 2009.

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Jimmy Somerville all set to belt out his 80s hits

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The Salvation Army presents Symphony Sounds 2016
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Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Lunchtime Organ Concert: Thomas Trotter & Catrin Finch
Mon at 1pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 KS2 Schools' Concerts
Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Comedy night
Tonight,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Stourbridge,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Bill Bailey: Limboland
Tonight at 8pm, £25 - £28.82
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Mark Steel: Who Do I Think I Am?
Tonight at 8pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

Enrych In Stitches Comedy Fundraiser
Thu at 7.50pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Upfront Comedy
Tomorrow at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy
Tonight at 8.15pm, Tomorrow at 8.15pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

EdinBrum Previews: Rob Rouse & Christain Reilly
Thu at 7.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Moore Laughter
Sun at 7pm - 10.30pm,
Bar Risa, Birmingham,
B1 2HF.
Call 0121 632 4936

Bobby Davro
Thu at 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Max And Ivan: The End
Tonight at 8pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Hilarity Charity Gala
Mon at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

THEATRE

Welsh National Opera: Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci
Thu at 7.15pm, £16.50 - £50
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond Caring
Tue at 7pm - 9.20pm, Wed at 7.30pm - 9.50pm, Thu at 7.30pm - 9.50pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Cats: The Musical
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Tom
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Hamlet
Thu at 7.30pm - 9.30pm,
Ludlow Brewing Co,
The Railway Shed, SY8 2PQ.
Call 01584 873291

Tell Me On A Sunday
Tomorrow at 7.30pm, £24.50 - £28.50
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Searching For The Happiness
Tomorrow at 11am,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Dirty Dusting
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Black Is The Color Of My Voice
Thu at 7.30pm,
The Old Rep Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 605 5116

The Quiet House
Tonight at 8pm, Tomorrow at 2.30pm, 8pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Spinning Wheel Keeps Turning
Thu at 8pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

A Flea In Her Ear: MD Amdrams
Thu at 7.30pm,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

None Zero One: Ground Control
Today at 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, Tomorrow at 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, Sun at 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Crazy For You: The Viv Kelly Youth Theatre Group
Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Music Hall Memories
Wed at 2pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Peppa Pig's Surprise (Under 5s)
Wed at 1pm, 4pm, Thu at 10am, 1pm, £13.50 - £22.90
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

The Debt Collectors
Tomorrow at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Dad's Army
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,
Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Pasha Kovalev: It's All About You
Sun at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Late Night Love
Tonight at 9.30pm,
mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

The Chris And Pui Show
Tomorrow at 11am, 2pm,
Solihull Arts Complex,
Touchwood, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Hilarity for charity at Grand night out

WOLVERHAMPTON'S own comedy group Pappy's, stars of TV series Badults, are among a stellar line-up of top comics performing at the Hilarity Charity Gala 2016.

Comedy sketch trio Pappy's are Matthew Crosby, Ben Clark and Tom Parry, with Ben and Tom both being former members of Central Youth Theatre.

The trio have enjoyed four years of sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and were Chortle Award winners in 2008 and 2013.

They found national fame with their BBC3 series Badults, which is now available on Netflix, an anarchic comedy about the misadventures of three flatmates.

Podcast

Pappy's also have a popular podcast called Bangers And Mash available via their www.pappyscomedy.com website. Central Youth Theatre is hosting its third Hilarity Charity Gala at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Monday when a host of comedians, many familiar from top TV shows, present a rib-tickling night to raise money for the theatre group.

The line-up includes Birmingham stand-up Joe Lycett from 8 out of 10 Cats, Live at the Apollo, Never Mind the Buzzcocks and Celebrity Juice. Joe is a former Chortle Student Comedian of the Year and has been a guest for Scott Mills, Greg James and Nick Grimshaw on BBC Radio 1 and one of Radio 4's Just A Minute panel.

Home gig in Wolverhampton for Pappy's comedy group as part of the Hilarity Gala

Also performing will be Adam Riches from Horrible Histories and The Detectorists; Nish Kumar from Have I Got News For You and Russell Howard's Stand Up Central; Spencer Jones of sit-com Upstart Crow; Ivo Graham of BBC Radio 5 Live's Fighting Talk and ITV's Elevenish; and the evening will again be compered by Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson.

This year's gala is aiming to raise funds for the group's move into a new home in the former Co-Operative building opposite the Grand in Lichfield Street. Tickets are priced £17.50 and £22.50. Call (01902) 429212.

Clare and all that jazz

AWARD-WINNING jazz singer, Radio 2 presenter and former Wolverhampton student Clare Teal will be accompanied by her 16-piece Hollywood Orchestra, led by top arranger and trumpeter Guy Barker, in concert at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday.

The UK's Queen of Swing will present Twelve O'Clock Tales, based around her latest album, because she says every song has a tale to tell, and as the midnight hour falls so do barriers to innermost thoughts and desires.

Her repertoire will include classics from the Great American and British Songbooks with music from Cole Porter, Billy Strayhorn, Rodgers and Hammerstein to Tim Rice and Sting.

Clare became a familiar voice on radio as presenter of BBC Radio 2's Big Band Special. The Skipton lass discovered jazz via her grandmother's record collection and studied music at Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now university) before entering show business singing jingles. She has been associated with Big Band Special for 12 years

Talking about her new album Twelve O'Clock Tales, which features the prestigious Hallé Orchestra, Clare said: "This is our most ambitious project to date and being accompanied by the Hallé is an absolute privilege. To be in a room surrounded by 93 incredibly talented musicians wondrously lifting these stunning arrangements right off the page before your eyes makes for a great day out – to actually then add your own voice to the story is a dream come true.

"We're thrilled to be releasing Twelve O'Clock Tales on our own label. It's truly liberating to be in control of what you want to record."

Tickets for Sunday's Grand concert range from £18 to £28. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call (01902) 429212.

One night only in concert line-up

THERE is a star-studded line-up for a series of one night concerts at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre (also see above).

Tonight (Thursday) the nation's Nancy, Oliver! star Jodie Prenger, is searching for romance in New York in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's Tell Me On A Sunday. Soul Legends on Friday features guest George 'Rock Your Baby' McCrae then 'People's Tenor' Russell Watson is in concert on Saturday. Clive John conjures 'the Man in Black' in the Johnny Cash Roadshow on Tuesday. Comedian Stu Francis, singer Maggie O'Hara and Steve Barclay as Max Miller are in Music Hall Memories on Wednesday.

Opera celebrates with Cav and Pag

WELSH National Opera is making a return visit to Birmingham Hippodrome to celebrate its 70th birthday with the classics Cavalleria rusticana and Pagliacci.

The double bill of Cav & Pag, sung in Italian with English surtitles, will be at the Hippodrome on Thursday and Saturday, June 9 and 11. Each opera packs lots of drama and powerful music into just over an hour.

On Friday, June 10, WNO perform In Parenthesis, British composer Iain Bell's adaptation of the epic poem by David Jones about First World War soldiers who enter a magical wood amid the horrors of the Somme.

Singer Corinne's creative rebirth

CORINNE Bailey Rae was worried about not bringing out a record in six years. "I think you have to remind fans of who you are, no matter the length of gap," she says. "But I do feel really lucky the people who follow my music have kept in touch. I feel like there's still a good connection there."

Sophisticated new record The Heart Speaks In Whispers charts Bailey Rae's creative and personal rebirth following the death in 2008 of her husband, saxophonist Jason Rae.

She plays Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on July 7 as support to Lionel Richie before V Festival in August.

CHOICE

Griff Rhys Jones

All New It'll Be Alright on the Night
(ITV, 9pm)
Griff Rhys Jones returns to showcase another selection of hilarious film and TV outtakes rescued from the cutting-room. Among the stars whose gaffes are highlighted in this edition are Elton John, David Beckham and Ricky Gervais, and fumbled takes from the sets of Coronation Street, Mr Selfridge and EastEnders also make an appearance. Plus, mistakes from The One Show demonstrate the perils of live TV, and Jeremy Kyle has a painful encounter with a stray camera.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Athletics. **12.40** Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights. **1.40** Boxing: Women's World Championships. **2.40** Flog It! (R) **3.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.20 Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. **5.40** Can't Touch This.

6.30 BBC News.

6.40 Regional Programme.

6.50 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz.

7.40 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Plus, Ore Oduba presents the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.

8.30 The Musketeers. Paris is on the brink of starvation, prompting Grimaud and Feron to join forces with the Duke of Beaufort to win the King's business. However, to further their scheme, they must first frame the city's refugees for stealing much sought-after grain. As the conspirators' scapegoats are locked up in the Châtelet to await execution, D'Artagnan's hot temper also lands him a cell, and with one of their own now behind bars, the Musketeers race to secure the release of those who have been wrongly imprisoned. Meanwhile, spirited refugee Sylvie catches Athos' eye, vowing to prove her friends' innocence, but is he wise to trust her?

9.25 Casualty. Elle is pressed into a corner by Hanssen, who wants to know who has been stealing drugs. After a shocking discovery, she is forced to choose between the good of the department and the people in it. Robyn and David's morality cafe proves a success, Rita pushes Iain away until a threatening incident makes her seek his help, and Cal urges Iain to try flirting with a patient, but his efforts go disastrously wrong.

10.25 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.45 Film: Die Hard with a Vengeance. (1995) Action thriller sequel, with Bruce Willis.

12.45 Film: The Children. (2008) **2.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: Finishing School. (1934) **7.20 Film:** Hue and Cry. (1947) **8.40 Film:** The Island at the Top of the World. (1974) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Hairy Bikers: Everyday Gourmets. (R) **1.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **1.30 Film:** Pal Joey. (1957) Musical comedy, starring Frank Sinatra. **3.20** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.20** This Week's World. **5.00** UEFA Euro 2017 Qualifier. England v Serbia (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don reports on progress in his cutting garden and, now that plants are growing apace, gets on with seasonal maintenance tasks in the jewel garden. Frances Tophill continues her vegetable trials at RHS Rosemoor in Devon, when she plants out her allotment with the help of volunteers. Plus, a visit to Bodnant Garden in north Wales to find out how its volunteers are guiding visitors through the world famous Laburnum Arc. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army. The platoon takes part in an efficiency test in a bid to prove its worth, but mistakenly attacks a tea lady with onions from Jones's van. Guest starring Fulton Mackay. (R)

8.30 Film: Alice in Wonderland. (2010) A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky – a task she is seemingly destined to attempt. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway.

10.10 QI XL. Extended edition. The Rev Richard Coles, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on L-themed larks – a "Liblabble", as he calls it.

10.55 Versailles. Period drama depicting the decadent and turbulent early reign of Louis XIV. In the first edition, the young monarch seeks to assert his authority. George Blagden stars; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.55 Film: You Will Be My Son. (2011) Drama, with Niels Arestrup.

1.35 Film: Quatermass 2. (1957) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis.

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Bang on the Money. Rickie Haywood-Williams and Melvin Odoom host the final edition of the high-precision game show. This time, "The Arc Angels" from Northampton take on Mr England, Mr Birmingham and Miss Basingstoke, known collectively as "The Pageant People". The two teams battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges, and at the end of the contest, the most successful group could win up to £40,000. Last in the series.

8.00 You Saw Them Here First. The TV debuts of some of Britain's best-known faces.

9.00 All New It'll Be Alright on the Night. Griff Rhys Jones introduces more TV and film outtakes, including gaffes by Elton John, David Beckham and Ricky Gervais, and fumbled takes from Coronation Street and EastEnders.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Secrets of Growing Old. Documentary unravelling the secrets of ageing, including the changing attitudes to "growing old", with examples of people who defy preconceptions of what it means to be "old'. (R)

11.20 Film: Carry On Cleo. (1964) A captured Briton is mistaken for a heroic swordsman and given the job of protecting Julius Caesar from assassins. Comedy, with Amanda Barrie.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** Transvulcania Ultramarathon. **7.10** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Derby Day Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** The Derby: Channel 4 Racing from Epsom. Including the feature race at 4.30. **5.00** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.

6.00 Homes by the Med. Charlie Luxton returns to Spain to explore the Costa del Sol, one of the most-visited sections of the Andalucian coastline. While there, he meets a couple who have built an extraordinary modern home that is designed like a cruise ship, but on dry land. Previously seen on More4.

7.00 Channel 4 News.

7.15 The Restoration Man. Architect George Clarke helps restoration novices Marco and Kath Walker, who have bought a pair of 17th and 18th-century cow barns in Wellington, Herefordshire. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Stephen Yeoman and Anita Findlay, who want to build a cutting-edge, post-industrial house covered in rusty metal. However, their prominent riverside plot in the traditional and architecturally conservative area of South Downs means everyone will be watching. The project proves to be a real rollercoaster when the fitting of the rusty steel cladding goes wrong, cash flow problems threaten to bring work to a halt, and the couple announce that a baby is on the way. (R)

9.00 Film: 12 Years a Slave. (2013) Premiere. A free black man living in pre-Civil War New York is abducted and sold into slavery. He spends the next 12 years struggling to survive and maintain his dignity in the face of brutal treatment, while clinging to a desperate hope that he can return to his family. Oscar-winning historical drama based on Solomon Northup's autobiographical book, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor.

11.45 Film: Colombiana. (2011)

1.40 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Posh Pawnbrokers. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.25** Police Interceptors: Fast & Furious. (R) **5.25** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.25 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a couple who owe five months' rent on a flat in an affluent suburb of London, and later hit a snag when they try to seize a taxi over a £3,000 debt. In Bristol, county court bailiff Steve Wood finds out that unpaid rent is not the only problem when he attempts to repossess a corner shop. (R)

7.25 Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. One-off edition in which the High Court enforcement agents are caught in the crossfire of three bitter family disputes, including a debt-dodging man who pushes his panic-stricken mother over the edge. Plus, a family booted onto the streets at night by a ruthless aunt, and a man who won't engage with the agents and loses his car. (R)

8.20 5 News Weekend.

8.30 NCIS. The team suspects Gibbs's arch-nemesis is behind an explosion at a summit on global terror. Meanwhile, a grief-stricken Fornell struggles to deal with the fatal shooting of his ex-wife. American drama, starring Mark Harmon, David McCallum, Pauley Perrette and Joe Spano.

9.25 NCIS. A covert identity created for one of Gibbs' undercover cases 20 years previously resurfaces after a murder victim is found to be using the alias. Meanwhile, Bishop becomes anxious at the thought of having to work incognito in the future. Starring Mark Harmon and Emily Wickersham.

10.20 NCIS: Los Angeles. A marine is thought to have killed himself after falling to his death from a rooftop bar, but Sam and Callen are brought in to re-evaluate the case after an appeal from his family. (R)

11.15 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a woman is shot dead in an apartment. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Venice **8.00** D-Day: The Last Heroes **9.00** The Disappearance **10.45** The Richest Songs in the World **12.15** Biggest Band Break Ups and Make Ups **1.15** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.25** The Richest Songs in the World **3.55** Close

ITV2
2.10 FYI Daily **2.15 Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.00 Film:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **4.45 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.40 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45 Film:** Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.15** The Cleveland Show **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.30** Planet's Funniest Animals

ITV3
11.20 Hidden Treasure **1.25** Lewis **3.25** Rosemary & Thyme **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Colditz **12.00** Bouquet of Barbed Wire **1.05** Northern Lights **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Cycling: Tour Series Highlights **12.00** TT 2016: Steve and James' TT Road Trip **1.00** TT 2016: Qualifying Highlights **2.00** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **3.00** Counting Cars **3.30** Storage Wars **5.30** British Touring Cars – Crashes and Smashes **5.45** Live French Open Tennis. **7.00** TT 2016: Sidecar Superstars **8.00** TT 2016: Hutchy Miracle Man **9.00** TT 2016: Superbike TT Race **10.00 Film:** Road (2014) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** Road (2014) **12.15 Film:** Fastest (2011) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20 Film:** Fastest (2011) **2.30** Highway Patrol **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 How I Met Your Mother **12.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.00 Film:** Rio (2011) **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Predator (1987) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** Rude Tube **2.20** The Inbetweeners **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** Angie Tribeca **4.25** New Girl

Film4
11.00 3:10 to Yuma (1957) **1.00** New in Town (2009) **2.50** Rat Race (2001) **5.00** Parental Guidance (2012) **7.05** Vice Versa (1988) **9.00** Welcome to the Punch (2013) **11.00** Watchmen (2009) **2.10** Night of the Creeps (1986) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Soccer Aid 2016 (ITV, 6pm)
Coverage of the big game in aid of Unicef, which sees footballing heroes team up with celebrities for an England v Rest of the World match live from Old Trafford. Robbie Williams takes a step back from the pitch this time around, instead choosing to be Jose Mourinho's assistant manager, with help from Sunderland boss Sam Allardyce and coach Bradley Walsh. Their England team features former professionals such as David Seaman, Jamie Carragher and Robbie Fowler, plus stars including Jack Whitehall, Olly Murs, Paddy McGuinness and John Bishop. Leicester City coach Claudio Ranieri manages the opposing side, which calls upon Ronaldinho, Dimitar Berbatov and other pros, lining up with captain Michael Sheen and a squad featuring Gordon Ramsay and Nicky Byrne.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.15** BBC News; Weather. **1.30** Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. The Birmingham Grand Prix. **4.30** Celebrity Mastermind. (R) **5.00** Points of View. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Scotland's Montrose Basin, an internationally important location for wild fowl. Anita ventures out onto the treacherous mud flats, while Matt visits the site of the UK's first air base, where enthusiasts are building replica First World war biplane. Naomi Wilkinson looks for golden eagles and other wildlife in Glenesk, and Adam Henson meets a dog psychologist. Tom Heap reports on how the result of the EU referendum could affect the British countryside. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Cheneis Manor, near Amersham in Buckinghamshire, where members of the public bring along treasured antiques and collectibles. A young woman chooses a 21st birthday present from a collection of pocket watches kept in a biscuit tin and a train set that has been in its box for 70 years finally sees the light of day. Fiona reads a letter from a soldier to be opened in the event of his death, the relatives of a glassblower pay a moving tribute to their father's work and the update feature focuses on an ornate French plant stand first seen on the show in 1991. (R)
9.00 Wallander. The detective takes on his most challenging case as he searches for Linda's father-in-law. Last in the series.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 Regional Programme.
11.00 Duran Duran at Eden. Alex Jones and Patrick Kielty introduce highlights of the band's concert for BBC Music Day from the Eden Project's biomes.
12.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.05 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.05** This Farming Life. (R) **8.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R)
12.30 Film: How the West Was Won. (1962) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Gymnastics: Women's European Championships.
6.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrows continue to have bad luck with the weather. The RAF's fastest jet appears in a display over Bournemouth and the pilots receive some shocking news. Last in the series. (R)
7.00 Dara and Ed's Great Big Adventure. Ed Byrne and Dara O Briain retrace a journey taken by three men from Detroit during the 1940s, embarking on a 4,000-mile pan-American adventure. (R)
8.00 Top Gear. Chris, Matt and Eddie take Sharleen Spiteri, Seasick Steve and Tinie Tempah on an SUV test in South Africa, and Damian Lewis is this week's Star in a Rallycross Car.
9.00 City in the Sky. New series. Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry present a documentary exploring aviation, beginning with a look at the challenges of getting passenger planes into the air.
10.05 Top Gear Extra Gear. New series. Spin-off going behind the scenes on the motoring series. Sabine Schmitz presents a tour of her racing workshop, and comedian Chris Ramsey joins the team in the studio.
10.30 Stupid Man, Smart Phone. Russell Kane turns to his phone for help in climbing the Dolomite Mountains of Italy accompanied by internet star Humza Arshad, who has rarely set foot outside of London.
11.20 Flat TV. Tom is obsessed with his new neighbour and ends up breaking into her home, while Naz invents a new sauce.
11.45 Later – with Jools Holland. Extended edition of the music programme, featuring performances by Tame Impala, Biffy Clyro, Michael Kiwanuka, Moon Hooch, James Blake and Lera Lynn. Last in the series. (R)
12.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.40** Holby City. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.20** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.30** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Teen Titans Go! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Griff's Great Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.50** ITV News; Weather. **12.00** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **12.30** Fierce. (R) **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. Coverage of the 15th day's play at Roland Garros, featuring the men's singles final in the second Grand Slam tournament of the year, which was won by Stan Wawrinka last year. **5.45** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.50** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 Soccer Aid 2016. Jose Mourinho and Claudio Ranieri manage the pro-celebrity teams for the charity football match, live from Old Trafford, as England take on the Rest of the World (Kick-off 8.00pm).
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Fraud – How They Steal Your ID. Criminals are increasingly procuring bank and credit card details from online customers, which are then freely traded on the so-called 'dark web'. However, as this programme reveals, to succeed in doing this they must first get personal with their targets using a combination of data hacks, spam e-mail and malware - often coupled by posing as inquisitive bank staff via telephone calls. With reference to true-life occurrences, this programme outlines the various techniques used to swindle account holders of their cash. Narrated by Shaun Dooley. (R)
11.20 Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine. Dropping tokens down a choice of four chutes, they hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the greater the prize fund. The player who has won the least amount is then eliminated, and the last one standing competes for a £10,000 jackpot. (R)
12.20 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming.
3.00 Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Salvage SOS. **6.25** Salvage SOS. **6.50** Salvage SOS. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** The King of Queens. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55 Film:** Step Up 3. (2010) Dance drama sequel, starring Rick Malambri. **3.05** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.05** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **5.05 Film:** The Jungle Book. (1967) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Phil Harris.
6.35 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Escape to the Chateau. New series. Series following a British family that buys a French chateau over the course of a year, as they restore the building after 40 years of standing empty. Dick Strawbridge and his partner Angel Adoree's new home has 12 acres of land, nine outbuildings, a walled garden and a moat – but it also has no electricity, heating or water, and proves to be a far more complicated DIY project than expected.
8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. New series. The actress travels around the country to visit the Queen's official residences and meet people with royal appointments. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry, meets the Royal Herb Strewer and unearths a box of treasure dating back to Elizabeth I. She also takes a trip up the Thames in the gilded barge Gloriana.
9.00 Film: About Time. (2013) Premiere. A single man gets the chance to turn his unhappy life around when his father reveals that they both have the ability to travel through time and change their personal history. He uses his newfound talent to try to improve his love life and win the heart of an American woman he has fallen for. Romantic fantasy comedy, with Domhnall Gleeson, Rachel McAdams and Bill Nighy.
11.25 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) A cynical, hard-drinking teacher hopes to seduce a wealthy substitute, making an enemy of a squeaky-clean colleague in the process. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake.
1.10 Million Pound Properties. (R) **2.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Win It Cook It. **5.00** The Restoration Man. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Pets. **7.10** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Funniest Falls, Falls & Flops. (R) **11.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **12.00 Film:** See No Evil, Hear No Evil. (1989) Comedy, starring Richard Pryor and Gene Wilder. **1.50 Film:** Spies Like Us. (1985) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd. **3.45 Film:** Wayne's World. (1992) Comedy, starring Mike Myers and Dana Carvey. **5.35** 5 News Weekend. **5.40 Film:** Six Days Seven Nights. (1998) A bickering journalist and pilot are stranded on a desert island, and face a series of dangers as they struggle to survive. Romantic adventure, with Harrison Ford and Anne Heche. Edited for language, nudity and sexual content.
7.40 Film: PS I Love You. (2007) Widowed Holly feels she cannot cope following the death of her husband. However, on her birthday, she receives a letter he wrote to her just before he died, encouraging her to live life to the full rather than languish in sorrow. This is just the first in a series of messages, each one sending her on wild misadventures and helping her to move on. Romantic drama based on Cecelia Ahern's novel, starring Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler and Lisa Kudrow.
10.00 Most Shocking Celebrity Moments 2015. Countdown of the biggest showbusiness stories and scandals of 2015, including Bruce Jenner's transition to Caitlyn and the Top Gear bust-up involving Jeremy Clarkson. (R)
12.55 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Inside the Murder Prison. Journalist Paul Connolly revisits footage from his investigations into some of the most intimidating prisons in the world. (R) **4.00** Shops & Robbers: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis meets a seasoned CCTV operator in Stafford, who catches a drug user after spotting him on camera. Plus, a control room operative looking out for shoplifters in Woking. (R) **4.50** Nick's Quest. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake **8.00** Perfect Pianists at the BBC **9.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.30 Film:** Storyville: Blackfish – The Whale that Killed (2013) **11.50** Natural World Special: Miracle in the Marshes of Iraq **12.50** Stonehenge: A Timewatch Guide **1.50** Andrew Marr on Churchill: Blood, Sweat and Oil Paint **2.50** Good Swan, Bad Swan: Dancing Swan Lake **3.50** Close
ITV2
11.25 Take Me Out **12.35** Love Island **1.05 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.10 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **2.50 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **4.45 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50 Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **6.55 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Family Guy **11.00** American Dad! **12.00** The Cleveland Show **1.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.55** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.00 Film: Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **2.00** Lewis **6.00** Midsomer Murders **10.05 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **12.40** Secret Smile **2.00** Blue Murder **2.50** May the Best House Win **4.30** On the Buses **5.30** Judge Judy **5.50** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship **5.40** Live French Open Tennis **8.00** Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine **9.00** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 1 **10.00** Life on the Limit **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** Life on the Limit **12.15** TT 2016: Sidecar TT Race 1 **1.15** Hell on Wheels **2.15** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
1.30 The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Twilight (2008) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Gogglebox **2.15** The 100 **3.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Film4
1.00 Magic in the Water (1995) **3.05** That Darn Cat (1997) **4.50** Addams Family Values (1993) **6.35** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) **9.00** The American (2010) **11.05** Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (1995) **1.10** The Wind Rises (2013) **3.45** Close

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Fatal Fiance, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman joins forces with a reporter to clear the name of her fiance, who has becomes the prime suspect in a murder case. However, not everything is as it seems. Thriller, starring Jenny Wade, Jordi Vilasuso and Taylor Cole. (2016)

TUESDAY
Columbo: Double Exposure, ITV, 11.55pm
A maker of motivational films based on subliminal messages uses his expertise to plant a subconscious command in the mind of a rival to lure him to his death. However, any hopes of his getting away with it are dashed by the arrival of a certain shabby sleuth. Crime drama, starring Peter Falk, Robert Culp, Robert Middleton, Louise Latham and Arlene Martel. (1973)

WEDNESDAY
Bond of Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman searches for answers after her husband is mysteriously murdered while trying to subdue a wild teenage house party on New Year's Eve. However, as she tries to find out the truth, she faces secrecy at every turn from the party-goers and their parents. Drama, starring Kim Raver, Greg Grunberg and Charlie McDermott. (2010)

Back to the Future Part III, Friday, ITV, 11pm

THURSDAY
Taken Back: Finding Haley, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman whose daughter goes missing spends years obsessing over finding her. She meets a girl who she becomes convinced is her child, and tries to prove that her parents are in fact kidnappers. However, when she cannot find any evidence, she resorts to an abduction of her own. Thriller, starring Moira Kelly and Amanda Tapping. (2012)

FRIDAY
Back to the Future Part III, ITV, 11pm
Time-travelling teenager Marty McFly is transported back to the days of the Wild West, where he strives to save his eccentric scientist friend Doc Brown from death at the hands of a villainous gunslinger. Final instalment in the sci-fi comedy trilogy, starring Michael J Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Mary Steenburgen and Thomas F Wilson. (1990)

The home nation will hope to be on the ball

It's finally time for the big kick-off, and as is customary the host nation gets proceedings under way tonight at the Stade de France.

If you thought that the pressure was high on this side of the Channel, spare a thought for Didier Deschamps French side who go into the tournament as favourites and with the hopes of an expectant nation on their shoulders.

The signs look good though – over the years, the hosts tend to perform well at the Euros, and the French have been victorious in each of the last two major tournaments that they have hosted, winning the European Championships back in 1984 and the World Cup in 1998.

Their current side is strong defensively, formidable in midfield with Paul Pogba, and rife with speedy attacking options.

The one thing they are perhaps missing is a true No.9, as Karim Benzema is suspended from international play.

One of France's greatest ever players, Thierry Henry, is confident that the hosts will be at the national stadium in Paris when the winner is decided in exactly one month's time.

He told Sky Sports: "This is the big one for us. This is the big one for Deschamps and the big one for the team.

"We all know it is not easy to win a tournament at home, but we have done it twice. "We have won the Euros in 1984 and the World Cup in 1998 so we have a history of usually winning it when we have the tournament at home.

"France has a good team. The only thing I will say is we haven't played an official game for a long time, so that might be the question mark about the team at the moment.

"I think we have a great team and I'm not saying that because I am French, but I do think they have one of the best teams in Europe.

"I'll tip them to win and I hope they will."

First up for Les Bleus, who also triumphed at Euro 2000 in the Netherlands and Belgium, are Group A rivals Romania.

The Tricolorii were defensively the best team in qualifying, conceding just two goals, but they were also the least prolific team that qualified, scoring just 11, so the French may have their work cut out breaking down their opponents this evening.

The tournament itself has been expanded to 24 teams this year, with matches taking place in 10 different host cities.

As far as the TV coverage goes, the BBC and ITV have split it down the middle once again.

Mark Pougatch has proven to be good replacement for previous ITV anchor Adrian Chiles, and the broadcaster has gone all out with its French theme for the Euros.

Promotional work has been done by Eric Cantona, while Emmanuel Petit, Christian Karembeu and Louis Saha have all joined the punditry team.

Ian Wright is also on the team, along with West Ham boss Slaven Bilic.

There is also a return to commentary on ITV for Andy Townsend after a year-long absence.

France take on Romania in Euro 2016, Friday, ITV, 7.15pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Reg
BBC1, 9pm
Jimmy McGovern is the writer who brought us the powerful dramas Hillsborough and Sunday, which was based on the events of Bloody Sunday. Now, he's tackling another real-life story, that of Reg Keys (Tim Roth), who in 2003 received the devastating news that his son Tom had been killed in Iraq. As his wife Sally (Anna Maxwell Martin) struggles with her grief, Reg tries to make sense of what has happened, and discovers that three weeks prior to Tom's death, the army had ordered a scale-down in weapons and communications. Convinced this was a mistake on the military's part, Reg makes the decision to stand as an independent candidate in opposition to the Iraq War in the next General Election – and he's going to do it in the constituency of Sedgefield, where he will be running against Prime Minister Tony Blair.

TUESDAY
Big Brother: Live Launch
Channel 5, 9pm
Emma Willis ushers in another diverse group of fame-seeking individuals who have been chosen to spend their summer invading the nation's living rooms. This year, the house has been made over into a stark monochrome world. However, while everything may appear black and white, the new residents will not be alone – they will be be under attack from a dark, unseen force designed to have a divisive effect on the entire housemates as they fall victim to paranoia and suspicion.

WEDNESDAY
Power Monkeys
Channel 4, 10pm
New series. Spin-off from the highly acclaimed comedy series Ballot Monkeys, following both sides of the EU referendum, along with prominent international politicians on Donald Trump's campaign plane and inside Vladimir Putin's Presidential office. Creators Andy Hamilton and Guy Jenkin highlight the follies and foibles of contemporary politics, writing much of the show in the hours leading up to transmission.

THURSDAY
DIY SOS: The Big Build
BBC1, 8pm
Let's face it, this occasional series holds few surprises these days. Each edition is basically the same – a family struggling to cope in difficult circumstances has their living environment (and possibly their very existence) transformed by Nick Knowles and his team of property experts, with help from the local community. Despite this lack of diversity, viewers always end up shedding buckets of tears at the end – and it's this emotional impact that keeps us coming back for more. In recent months, there have been variations on the theme, with Princes William and Harry getting involved in creating new homes for war veterans, but we're expecting this edition to play out as usual. So, don't forget those handkerchiefs!

Big Brother: Live Launch, Tuesday, Channel 5, 9pm

New Blood
BBC1, 9pm
Anthony Horowitz's writing career has been one of mostly outstanding success, so when it was revealed that he was penning a new seven-part drama for the BBC, critics and fans alike couldn't wait to see the results. The creator of Alex Rider and Foyle's War tells the story of trainee detective Rash Sayyad and Stefan Kowolski, a junior case worker at the Serious Fraud Office. They are thrown together by the discovery of the corpse of Mark Henson, one of a group of medical guinea pigs, and an investigation into David Leese.

FRIDAY
The Millionaire's Holiday Club
BBC2, 9pm
Imagine going on holiday to some of the most exclusive destinations money can buy? This two-part documentary goes away with millionaire clients on made-to-measure holidays and takes a behind-the-scenes at a luxury travel agents and their extraordinary efforts to try and provide seven-star holidays. We meet party girl Jane, who since selling her business 12 years ago, has decided to spend the rest of her days on holiday with partner Michael. The couple went on 12 in 2015, and begin this year with a sumptuous Christmas cruise around the Caribbean. Mervyn and Heather, on the other hand, just want a quiet life. Working all year on their Somerset fruit farm, they dream of 10 precious days away sitting on the beach and doing nothing during a stay at one of the most prestigious hotels in Jamaica. But this year is different.

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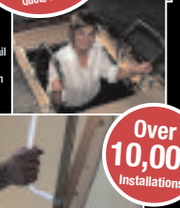
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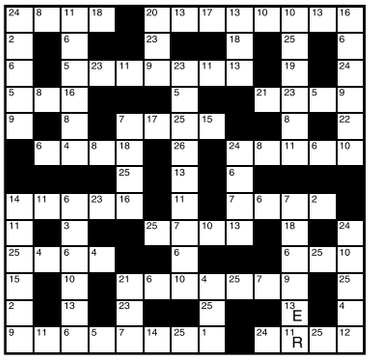
Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
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13 E	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
W	E	H	A	C	P	J	L	S	U	M	K	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
G	Y	X	O	B	I	T	F	R	V	Q	D	N

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

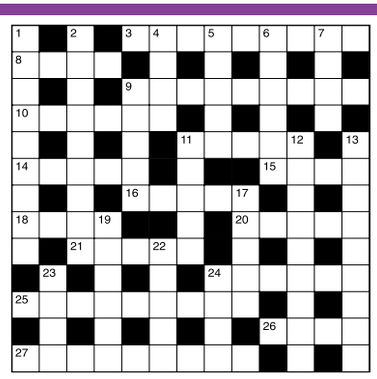
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. A very plain standard (9)
8. A never-to-be-repeated occasion (4)
9. Telling job for shopkeepers (9)
10. Ambled into a madhouse (6)
11. Yet people may sit in one (5)
14. Decoys, breaking the rules (5)
15. When it falls, it has the cheek to go on (4)
16. Gives out but sends the money right away (5)
18. Eats some biscuits upstairs (4)
20. They're used to make a stool (5)
21. Sprinkle water on a small bouquet (5)
24. Mounting a revolt? (6)
25. Usually it's the best of the entries (5,4)
26. Spare list (4)
27. Dancer all bare in confusion! (9)

Down

1. It's certain one shouldn't be so sceptical (9)
2. Sharp falls in sweet production? (4,5)
4. It's about time for a bit of news (4)
5. Take only what is right? (5)
6. It might be a latent gift (6)
7. Capital punishment? (4)
9. Breed fish, we hear (5)
11. I'm sly, perhaps, and slippery (5)
12. Put down and bore witness about it (9)
13. They impressed a new-spaper company (5,4)
17. It has to be negotiated in flight (5)
19. This column backs one up (6)
22. It counts as a hazard for ramblers (5)
23. It could be for a Malayan vessel (4)
24. The horse ran round the ring (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

3. Make sure (9)
8. Harvest (4)
9. Happy (9)
10. Inexperienced (6)
11. Concise (5)
14. Scholar (5)
15. Speed (4)
16. Killed (5)
18. Grain (4)
20. Attack (5)
21. Cold dish (5)
24. Deadly (6)
25. Highly pleased (9)
26. Stronghold (4)
27. Female tutor (9)

Down

1. Steep cliff (9)
2. Compasses (9)
4. Dull (4)
5. Come in (5)
6. Fond (6)
7. Thought (4)
9. Winds in rings (5)
11. Trade-mark (5)
12. A lie (9)
13. To air (9)
17. Eminent (5)
19. Indigenous (6)
22. Pale (5)
23. Roman emperor (4)
24. Minus (4)

Sudoku

		2				5		
	6			4			7	8
1		8	5			2		3
			9		8			
3	2		6		4			1
			2		7	9		
6		3				8		4
	4	7		2			1	
		1			3	6		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	3	7	5	6	8	2	4	1
8	6	5	1	4	2	3	7	9
2	4	1	7	3	9	6	8	5
4	8	2	3	9	5	7	1	6
7	5	9	4	1	6	8	2	3
6	1	3	2	8	7	5	9	4
3	9	6	8	2	4	1	5	7
1	7	8	9	5	3	4	6	2
5	2	4	6	7	1	9	3	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Sash; 3 Reverend; 8 Peal; 9 Cheering; 11 Have a flutter; 13 Reside; 14 Wraith; 17 Man of letters; 20 Emphasis; 21 Calm; 22 Steadies; 23 Stun. Down: 1 Sapphire; 2 Starves; 4 Exhale; 5 Electorate; 6 Elite; 7 Dogs; 10 Hand-to-hand; 12 Chessman; 15 Inexact; 16 Plaice; 18 Apple; 19 Peas. QUICK - Across: 1 Clap; 3 Reliable; 8 Note; 9 Graduate; 11 Incandescent; 13 Credit; 14 Stupor; 17 Affectionate; 20 Eviction; 21 Mere; 22 Tutelage; 23 Busy. Down: 1 Convince; 2 Article; 4 Earned; 5 Indication; 6 Brawn; 7 Even; 10 Incidental; 12 Greenery; 15 Plateau; 16 Strong; 18 Feint; 19 Feat.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Of what is ikebana the Japanese art?
2. Who won his third European 100m title in Helsinki in 1994?
3. To whom did Hampton Court Palace belong before Henry VIII moved in?
4. On which Greek island is St John said to have written the NT Book of Revelation?
5. Who wrote the novel Jane Eyre?
6. From which country did Algeria declare independence in 1962?
7. Of which metal is magnetite an ore?
8. Of what is there a special (1905) and a general (1915) theory?
9. What type of animal is a chinchilla?
10. Of what nationality was the philosopher Spinoza?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Zambia; 2 Ralph Vaughan Williams; 3 Ben Macdui; 4 A fish; 5 Rob Roy; 6 Golf; 7 St Andrew; 8 Leprosy; 9 A dog; 10 Great Britain.

Niner: LEGIONARY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

324569 gives a clergyman,
85196 gives a manservant,
67194 gives a craftsman.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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3 SEP • ALADDIN • MATILDA
10 SEP • JERSEY BOYS
17 SEP • CHICAGO
24 SEP • CHARLIE & CHOC FACTORY • KINKY BOOTS
1 OCT • WICKED
8 OCT • SUNNY AFTERNOON • PHANTOM
15 OCT • LES MISERABLES
22 OCT • ALADDIN • LION KING
29 OCT • MATILDA • JERSEY BOYS • WIND IN THE WILLOWS
5 NOV • MAMMA MIA • BEAUTIFUL
12 NOV • MOTOWN • ALADDIN

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2 DAYS £99.95
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• Includes admission to Legoland on both days
SAT 25 JUN, 16, 23 JUL , 6, 13 AUG, 29 OCT

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5 DAYS £189.95
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• Includes Beatles Tour & Cavern Club, Mersey River Cruise & Visit to Chester
MON 27 JUN, 11, 25 JUL, 1, 15 AUG, 5, 19 SEP, 24 OCT

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4/5 DAYS FROM £179.95
3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Seascape/Bancourt Hotel
• Admission included to Eden Project
4 DAYS FRI 17 JUN, 22, 29 JUL, 5, 12, 19, 26 AUG
5 DAYS MON 13, 20, 27 JUN, 18, 25 JUL, 8 AUG

5 DAY BREAKS FROM £179.95
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EASTBOURNE 13, 20, 27 Jun, 11, 25 Jul
FOLKESTONE & OSTEND 20, 27 Jun, 11, 18, 25 Jul
LLANDUDNO 13, 27 Jun, 11, 25 Jul, 1, 8, 15 Aug

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5 DAYS FROM £199.95
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MON 20 JUN, 18 JUL, 12 SEP, 3 OCT

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2 DAYS FROM £89.95 OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 23, 30 JUL, 24 SEP

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4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Trecarn Hotel
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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 16 JUL, 6 AUG, 3 SEP, 15 OCT

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NOTICE

Stone Cross St George Community Group along with David Grigg, Mark Cowles and the good people of West Bromwich, proudly present a commemorative bench, honouring the Fallen at the Battle of the Somme 100 years ago this year.

A short ceremony led by the British Legion, will be followed by refreshments in the Curry and Grill (Stone Cross Pub),

Saturday 4th June at 11.15.

THE FELLOWS BAR & GRILL

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, June 2, 2016

Watch the water on the iconic 10th hole on The Brabazon

Time to relax at the well-stocked Brabazon Bar

Just as grand as it looks with beautifully-kept gardens

Enjoy the spa Fire and Ice Experience

This award-winning family resort is par excellence – and not just for golf

AS a novice golfer I can't pretend that I did not feel humbled as we made our way up the sweeping driveway to the famous Belfry Hotel & Resort.

With championship golf courses and several tourist awards I knew we were in for a treat.

With just a few golf lessons under my belt – so no Rory McIlroy – I was way out of my depth. But there was no way I was going to miss the chance to say that I had actually played at the Belfry. Of course it is not just golf that would attract you to this superb hotel at Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, its tourism awards are well earned.

Do not be intimated by its name and reputation, grand as it is, it has a knack of making you feel right at home. My husband and I arrived one Friday afternoon and after looking around realised just how much this holiday resort has to offer.

Of course there is the world-famous golf – more of that later – but there is so much more to attract the whole family. There are no shortage of activities and places to eat for the young ones and a nightclub across the drive for the slightly older ones. For the woman in your life – and the sport is becoming more popular with the fairer sex – there is also the spa.

Sue Attwater tees off

You must treat yourself to a champagne tea, the ultimate in luxury. Our charming waiter James supplied us with a wonderful tiered stand full of sandwiches and cakes – it was like being at the Ritz.

We were saving the golf until the following morning so on the Friday we headed for the relaxing spa with the Fire and Ice Experience – 90 minutes of sheer bliss and if you are brave enough the ice cold bucket experience. He did, I didn't and I was quite glad after seeing the shocked look on his face.

Totally relaxed, we sat on the balcony and watched as the more experienced golfers tackle the 18th hole on the PGA course. It was easy to relax in the sumptuous room – the lady on reception said we would go 'wow' when we saw it and she was not wrong. The bedroom area was huge with a large en suite and dressing area and adjoining living room. Then, to step out onto the huge veranda with the lovely views – this is the life!

Nightclub

Time to settle there with a glass of wine and watch the others tackle the course and maybe get some tips for the morning. Relaxed and changed we headed off to the Ryder Grill restaurant for a delicious a la carte meal and I could forget the calories as I would work them off on the course the next morning.

Afterwards, if you fancy strutting your stuff, just pop across to the very popular Bel Air Nightclub & Lounge. Entrance is included in many weekend packages. Then after breakfast that was it – what I was waiting for. We headed out to the Derby golf course, the only one of the three where you don't need to have a handicap. As I explained when booking my only handicap was that I couldn't play!

There is also a driving range if you want to try out your skills first. For the little ones there is a small course that replicates some of the famous holes – like the one at Kiawah Island from the 1991 Ryder Cup.

The site has three full courses: The Brabazon, Ryder Cup in 1985, 1989, 1993 and 2002, PGA National, another for experienced players only and the third course The Derby the one we played.

It is available to all standards of players and is roughly 1,000 yards shorter than the other two. Even so, the full 18 holes are a big test of skills and stamina but we did both manage a par on one of the holes. I have not stopped raving about it since!

The Belfry has been nominated for three awards at the World Travel Awards 2016, having been crowned as England's Leading Resort last year. So if you are looking to get away with the family you can't go wrong.

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EPC: D

Tipton
Station Street
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£550pcm

EPC: F

Wednesbury
Crankhall Lane
- Three bedroom semi
- Central heating and double glazed windows
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Veranda/sun room
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

EPC: D

Tipton
Jonah Drive
- Ground floor flat
- Lounge with bay window
- Breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- One double bedroom
- Allocated parking.

£425pcm

EPC: E

Kingswinford
Glynne Avenue
- Recently redecorated
- Three bed semi
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Double glazed
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower
- Rear garden

£700pcm

EPC: TBC

Dudley
Dudley Wood Road
- Three bed semi
- Lounge
- Separate dining room
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen

£550pcm

EPC: C

Bilston
Kemsey Drive
- Mid-terrace property
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge with feature fire place
- Kitchen with cooker
- Conservatory
- Central heated
- Double glazed

£525pcm

EPC: C

Sedgley
Bilston Street
- Two bedrooms
- Convenient to Sedgley village
- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Fitted kitchen
- Off road parking
- Useful amenity area

£495pcm

EPC: D

Willenhall
Deans Gate
- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Generous Lounge/ Diner with Juliet balcony
- Fitted kitchen with electric oven and hob
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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Exemplary detached home must be viewed

An exemplary four-bedroomed detached freehold property situated in the heart of one of the most sought after estates in West Bromwich, this home in Dagger Lane is within walking distance of local nature reserves, Dartmouth Park, Sandwell Valley, Sandwell Hospital and the regenerated New Square development in the town centre.

The property truly needs to be visited to appreciate what is on offer. It is for sale through Bartrams at £350,000.

Welcoming the owner and guests to the property is a paved driveway that can easily accommodate multiple vehicles of different size.

Along with the benefit of having two reception rooms to accommodate both a large family and/or guests, the kitchen measures an impressive 5.08m x 3.12m, not to mention the additional utility room, providing access to a downstairs shower room and garage.

The first floor comprises four ample sized bedrooms and a fitted bathroom allowing an escape for some relaxation when needed.

£350,000

KEY FEATURES

Four bedrooms
2 reception rooms
Driveway and garage
Downstairs shower room
Sought after estate

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Bartrams
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EMAIL: enquiries@bartrams.com

KIER

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style, space and *specification*

The Juniper is a stunning 4 bedroom family home that boasts an impressive specification as standard, including kitchen appliances, en-suite to master bedroom and carpets throughout*.

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email: kph.parkviewsales@kier.co.uk

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Lounge photograph of a typical Kier showhome. Kitchen and external photograph is of The Juniper housetype. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Carpets available on selected plots reserved before 30th June 2016. Terms and conditions apply. **Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. † Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

Spacious terraced features a good-sized garden

A spacious intermediate terraced with a good-sized rear garden in Gresham Road, Oldbury, is for sale through Humberstone Homes at £89,950.

OLDBURY
£89,950

Conveniently positioned for the train station and having a lengthy rear garden, it has a lounge and separate dining room, kitchen with oven and hob, downstairs bathroom and two spacious bedrooms.

In more detail, the front door opens to the lounge with laminate flooring and an under-stairs cupboard. The dining room has laminate flooring and stairs off, the kitchen also has a cooker hood and complementary wall tiling.

The downstairs bathroom includes a bath with a shower attachment over.

For further information contact Humberstone Homes on 0121 4344345 or visit www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk

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Beakes Road, BEARWOOD,
NEW
Spacious three storey terraced property with many original features comprising, vestibule, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility room, three double bedrooms, spacious bathroom with separate shower, DRIVEWAY!
Offers Around £169,950

Sheepwash Lane, DUDLEY,
NEW
Recently constructed family home with, FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor shower room, four double bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway, rear garden.
Offers Around £167,500

Bainbridge Road, SMETHWICK,
NEW
Modern spacious semi detached property comprising, reception room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, two bedrooms, en-suite to master, bathroom, D/G and C/H, garage, driveway, front and rear gardens.
Offers Around £159,950

Heather Road, WALSALL,
NEW
Refurbished semi detached property comprising, porch, entrance hallway, reception room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, study, three bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom, front and rear gardens.
Offers Around £129,950

Thuree Road, BEARWOOD,
Set over three floors comprising of Porch, Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Five Bedrooms, Six Piece Bathroom, En Suite, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden, Gas Heating, Double Glazed, Well presented throughout.
Offers Around £299,950

Katherine Road, BEARWOOD,
Extended terraced property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, extended kitchen, cloakroom, two double bedrooms, upstairs shower room, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens.
Offers Around £149,950

West Park Road, SMETHWICK,
REDUCED
Comprising, porch, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen/diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, refitted bathroom with separate shower, D/G and C/H, driveway, large rear garden.
Offers Around £255,000

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Alwin Road, ROWLEY REGIS,
REDUCED
A three bedroom detached property with NO ONWARD CHAIN, the property briefly comprises: entrance hall, living room, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms and bathroom, front and rear gardens, off street parking
Offers Around £130,000

Park Mews, SMETHWICK,
Ground floor apartment comprising, open plan living/kitchen/dining, double bedroom, fitted bathroom, D/G and C/H, communal grounds and parking. IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!! Currently rented at £450 PCM
Offers Around £89,950

Majuba Road, BIRMINGHAM,
SSTC
Mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, spacious upstairs bathroom, two double bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden.
Offers Around £105,000

Ascot Close, OLDBURY,
Semi detached property with accommodation briefly comprising lounge, kitchen / diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, off road parking and car port, Double glazing and gas central heating where specified.
Offers Around £129,950

Linden Road, BEARWOOD,
SSTC
Mid terraced property comprising, hallway, Through lounge/diner, refitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens.
Offers Around £125,000

Marion Road, SMETHWICK,
Extended family home comprising, through lounge, extended kitchen/diner, shower room, four bedrooms, upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens.
Offers Around £195,000

Pargeter Road, BEARWOOD,
SSTC
Mid terraced property comprising, vestibule, two reception rooms, re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with separate shower, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens
Offers Around £182,950

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NEW

Pargeter Road, Bearwood

- Well Presented Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Useful Lof Space
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £214,950

NEW

Park Road, Bearwood

- Most Attractive Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Modern Style Kitchen
- Wealth Of Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW

Beechfield Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Contemporary Bathroom
- Ideal First Home
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £119,950

Old Crescent Court, Tame Road. Oldbury

- Well Presented FF Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking Space
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £94,950

Thimblemill Road, Bearwood

- Attractive Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £119,950

Hagley Road West, Oldbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment
- EP Rating F

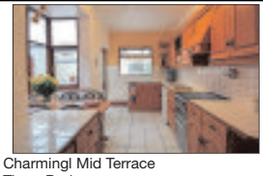
Offers in excess of £120,000

Reginald Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £129,950

Galton Road, Bearwood



- Charmingl Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Period Features
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £209,950

Barclay Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Extended Dining Kitchen
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £259,950

NEW

Abbey Road, Bearwood

- Superbly Refurbished Semi
- Four Bedrooms
- Extended Kitchen Diner
- Wealth Of Period Features
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £425,000

NEW

Devon Road, Bearwood

- Beautifull End Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- An Extended Kitchen
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Period Features
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £239,950

NEW

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Charming Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Delightful Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £209,950

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Traditional three-bedroomed semi is an ideal size for a family

This most attractive traditional three-bedroomed semi-detached home in Hawne Lane, Halesowen, has ideal family sized accommodation.

It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £199,950 with no chain.

The has a sunny south facing garden with picturesque panoramic views of the countryside, including Clent and Walton Hills.

HALESOWEN

£199,950 <<<

For further information contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 429 9986 or visit www.oulsnam.net

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TEMPLE MEADOWS ROAD, B71 4DF

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Utility Areas
- Freehold, EPC TBC

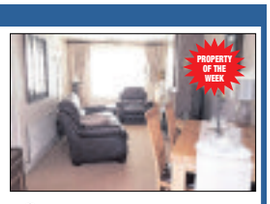
£179,950

LAW STREET, B71 1DY

- An End Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Bathroom
- Freehold, EPC RATING F

£119,950

BERKSHIRE CRESCENT, WS10 0ST



- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Through Lounge, Conservatory
- Garage
- Freehold
- EPC RATING D

£124,950

BROOKSIDE, WS10 0QF

- A Second Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Storage Heaters
- Allocated Parking
- Leasehold, EPC RATING D

£86,950

WITTON LANE, B71 2AQ

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Area
- Freehold

£149,950

MONARCH COURT, WS10 9FD

- A Duplex Apartment
- Two Bedrooms / En -Suite
- Excellent Location for Commuting
- Ideal 1st Time Buy
- Leasehold, EPC Rating F

£94,950

CHARLEMONT AVENUE, B71 3BY

- A Semi Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Glazed & Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Diner & Utility
- Freehold, EPC RATING D

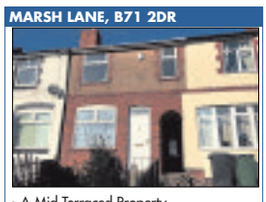
£284,950

DAGGER LANE, B71 4BT

- A Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Freehold
- EPC Rating D

£350,000

MARSH LANE, B71 2DR



- A Mid Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£114,950

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- MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE

Offers in the Region Of £184,950.00

Grove Road, Sparkhill

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACED HOME
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GROUND FLOOR FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZED & CENTRAL HEATED

Offers in Excess of £169,950.00

Parkside Road, Handsworth Wood

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- FRONT AND REAR GARDENS
- SIDE ENTRANCE

Offers in Excess of £154,950.00

Beech Dene Grove, Erdington

- THREE BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- MODERN KITCHEN

Offers in Excess of £134,950.00

Bodenham Road, Oldbury

- FOUR BEDROOM TERRACED PROPERTY
- IMPRESSIVE GARDENS
- LOVELY VIEWS
- CENTRAL HEATED & DOUBLE GLAZED

Offers in Excess of £119,950

St. Johns, Enderby

- FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
- FRONT & REAR GARDENS
- DOUBLE GARAGE
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £324,950.00

Hagley Road, Birmingham City Centre

- BRAND NEW ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- PRIME LOCATION
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- CONCIERGE SERVICES

Guide Price £145,000.00

The Furlong, Wednesbury

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOME
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £114,950.00

Lees Street, Hockley

- THREE BEDROOM TERRACED PROPERTY
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- DRIVEWAY AND GARDEN
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £89,950.00

Regent Street, Smethwick

- IDEAL FOR INVESTORS / FIRST TIME BUYERS!
- ONE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- GARDEN VIEWS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in the Region Of £69,950

Amphlett Croft, Tipton

- STUNNING FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- DOUBLE GARAGE AND OFF ROAD PARKING
- LOCATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- EPC RATING: D

£279,950.00

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- EXCELLENT THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY
- SEPERATE LARGE ANNEX
- CONSERVATORY AND OUTHOUSE
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £209,950.00

Willow Avenue, Edgbaston

- THEEE BEDROOM END-OF-TERRACE
- FULLY REFURBISHED
- BRAND NEW FITTED KITCHEN & BATHROOM
- EPC RATING: E

£209,950.00

Cadgwith Gardens, Bilston

- FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC
- OPEN PLAN SPACE
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in Excess of £179,950

Kynance Grove, Bilston

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE
- NO CHAIN & PRICE REDUCTION APPLIED!
- KITCHEN / DINER
- EPC RATING: B

Offers in Excess of £144,950.00

Chester Road, Erdington

- LOVELY GROUND FLOOR TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- RECENTLY REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
- CLOSE TO PYPE HAYES PARK AND GOLF COURSE
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in the Region Of £107,950.00

Hermitage Road, Edgbaston

- SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- ON THE 7TH FLOOR
- ENJOYING WONDERFUL VIEWS
- EPC RATING: E

Offers in Excess of £119,500.00

Delingpole Walk, Cradley Heath

- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS / INVESTORS
- TWO BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
- MODERN KITCHEN
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in Excess of £99,950

James Turner Street, Birmingham

- IDEAL FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS / INVESTORS
- TWO BEDROOM END-TERRACE
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EPC RATING: D

Offers in the Region Of £79,950

Church Street, Oldbury

- ONE BEDROOM MAISONETTE
- NEAUTRAL MODERN DECOR
- IDEAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
- FITTED KITCHEN

Offers in the Region Of £63,950.00

Rotunda, Birmingham City Centre

- TWO BEDROOM PENTHOUSE
- TOP FLOOR APARTMENT
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- SOUGHT AFTER CENTRAL LOCATION

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Granville Street, Birmingham City Centre

- FOURTH FLOOR APARTMENT
- QUIET CANAL SIDE LOCATION
- ELECTRIC GATES UNDERGROUND PARKING
- FULLY FURNISHED

£750.00

Hagley Road, Birmingham City Centre

- BRAND NEW ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT
- UPPER FLOOR APARTMENT
- CITY CENTRE LOCATION
- MODERN OPEN PLAN KITCHEN & DINER

£700.00

Regal Court, Birmingham City Centre

- ONE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT
- OPEN PLAN LIVING QUARTERS
- FURNISHED
- SECURE GATED ENTRY

£695.00

Fountain Lane, Oldbury

- FULLY REFURBISHED SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY
- BRAND NEW KITCHEN & BATHROOMS
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS AND ONE SINGLE BEDROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING AND REAR GARDEN

£650.00

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TIPTON COTTERILLS ROAD
- Two Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Downstairs Family Bathroom
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking For Several Vehicles
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £92,500

TIPTON HOBART ROAD
- Modern Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Street Parking
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £114,950

TIPTON FIELD ROAD
- Highly Modernised Three Bed Detached Bungalow
- 24' Through Lounge & Dining Area
- Kitchen Diner
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-suite To Master / Walk-In Wardrobe
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £174,950

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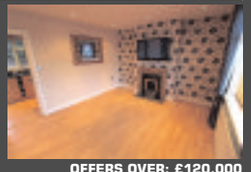
TIPTON MONINS AVENUE
- Three Storey Semi Detached Family Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Kitchen Diner
- En-Suite To Master
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Off Street Parking For Two Cars
- Garage
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950

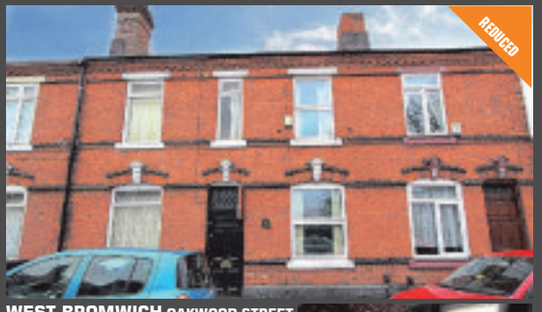
TIPTON THE COPPICE
- Fully Refurbished Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Integrated Kitchen
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Upstairs Family Shower Room
- Block Paved Driveway For Two Vehicles
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain



OFFERS OVER: £120,000

TIPTON ARTHUR ROAD
- Superbly Presented Throughout
- Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Through Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Downstairs W/C
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Block Paved Off Street Parking For Five Vehicles

OFFERS AROUND: £144,950



WEST BROMWICH OAKWOOD STREET
- Three Bedroom Traditional Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Family Bathroom
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Rear Garden

OFFERS OVER: £100,000

WEST BROMWICH BULL LANE
- Modernised Two Bed End Of Terrace Family Home
- Lounge Area
- Dining Room
- Modern Kitchen
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Off Street Parking For Several Vehicles
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

TIPTON SCOTT STREET
- Modern First Floor Two Bed Apartment
- Fully Integrated Modern Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Storage Heating
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000

TIPTON TOLL END ROAD
- Spacious Three Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

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NEW

NEWLANDS DRIVE, HALESOWEN

DECEPTIVELY SPACIOUS - extended semi RE-FITTED 24FT kitchen diner/family room & ENSUITE MASTER BEDROOM. Lounge, separate sitting room, downstairs WC, utility. TWO further DOUBLE BEDROOMS & family bathroom. EXTENSIVE REAR GARDEN, off road parking to front. Sought after HURST GREEN AREA. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC Rating: TBC.

QUINTON **£239,950**

NEW

QUINTON LANE, QUINTON

EXTREMELY spacious 5 BEDROOMED extended semi detached in POPULAR location with GARAGE at the rear, providing SUPERB RE-FITTED kitchen, and DELIGHTFUL RE-FITTED bathroom, Lounge (double doors to) sitting room, dining area, PLEASANT gardens to front and rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating tbc.

QUINTON **£239,950**

NEW

ST DAVIDS DRIVE, QUINTON

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Family home located in CUL-DE-SAC position with integral GARAGE. 18ft lounge diner leading to 11ft kitchen. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms on 1st floor. Fitted family bathroom with shower AND bath - WHITE SUITE. Driveway to front giving OFF ROAD PARKING. Low maintenance rear garden with private SOUTHERLY aspect. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: D

QUINTON **£179,950**

NEW

HUNNINGTON CLOSE, BARTLEY GREEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - EXTENDED terraced home in CUL-DE-SAC location & having GARAGE en-bloc. 11ft breakfast kitchen & EXTENDED 22ft lounge diner. 3 good sized bedrooms & family bathroom with WHITE SUITE. Gardens to front & rear. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: E

QUINTON **£137,500**

NEW

BOWDEN ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS end terraced property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, providing GOOD SIZED rear garden, and GARAGE at the side (via shared access), lounge and SEPARATE dining room, 3 BEDROOMS, upstairs bathroom. POPULAR LOCATION. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating tbc.

B1 **£125,000**

NEW

SPRINGFIELD LANE, ROWLEY REGIS

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Well presented & MODERNISED home with OFF ROAD PARKING to rear. 14ft lounge area with separate 10ft dining area. D/W WC. REFITTED kitchen with appliances. 3 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED shower room. Gardens to front & rear. UPVC DG & majority GCH. EPC rating: D. Non standard construction - timber framed with brick skin.

£124,950

NEW

ASHBOURNE ROAD, EDGBASTON

SPACIOUS intermediate terrace, CONVENIENT for gaining access to BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, with NO UPWARD CHAIN, dg & gch, offering lounge and SEPARATE dining room, 3 BEDROOMS (bed 3 access via bed 2), PLEASANT rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating tbc.

BEARWOOD **£124,950**

NEW

HICKORY DRIVE, EDGBASTON

Well presented GROUND FLOOR flat in CUL-DE-SAC position, with SPACIOUS 20ft LOUNGE/DINING AREA, kitchen, RE-FITTED bathroom, 2 DOUBLE bedrooms (with fitted wardrobes), PLEASANT communal gardens, GARAGE in separate block. DG. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E.

BEARWOOD **£120,000**

NEW PRICE

PERRY COURT, OLDBURY

MODERNISED & SPACIOUS 1st floor retirement flat. REFITTED 10ft kitchen with APPLIANCES. 13ft lounge overlooking rear. 2 bedrooms - master with FITTED bedroom furniture. REFITTED shower room. UPVC DG & night storage heating. COMMUNAL parking & gardens. Loft storage with ladder. EPC rating: C

QUINTON **£79,950**

NEW

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - MODERNISED & WELL PRESENTED top floor apartment with communal CAR PARK to rear. 13ft well decorated lounge. REFITTED kitchen with built in appliances. DOUBLE bedroom with fitted wardrobes overlooking gardens to rear. REFITTED bathroom with white suite. UPVC DG & night storage heating. EPC rating: C

QUINTON **£70,000**

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Eco friendly homes offer high quality living with latest Oaks development

The Oaks is a new development of 32 eco friendly homes on the Gospel Oak Road in Tipton.

The development will be high quality living. Through the Government's new Help to Buy scheme it is now possible to buy a new or existing home with just a five per cent deposit. The Wenlock will be the first style of home available with three bedrooms, en suite and garage.Contact Connells at Wednesbury on 0121 556 2338 for more details.

TIPTON

£134,396 <<<

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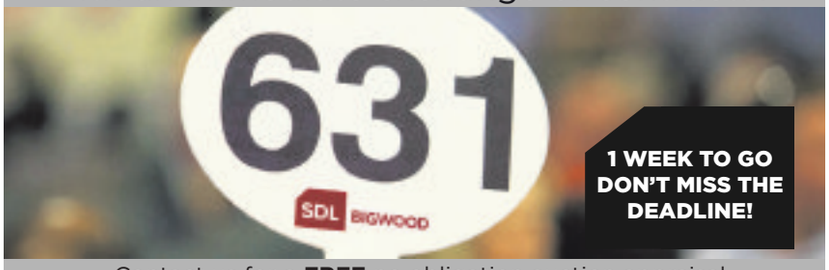

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Landlords Forum

Cannock Chase Council

Thursday 9th June 2016, 6.30pm

Museum of Cannock Chase, Valley Road, Hednesford, Staffs, WS12 1TD

If you are a Landlord with property to rent in the Cannock Chase Area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlord Forum?

Guest Speakers for the evening are:

JONATHAN CLEMENTS
PricewaterhouseCoopers - PwC
Update on changes to taxation in the private rented sector

Department for Work and Pensions
Universal Credit - Find out the facts

For more information contact
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Housing Options Team, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG

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team

Properties Urgently Needed

NEW
OLDBURY

CASTLE ROAD WEST
Traditional semi-detached house in need of general updating and improvement comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, downstairs W.C. three bedrooms, shower room, double glazing, night storage heating, established rear garden and detached garage. EPC Rating F.
Offers in the region of £159,950

NEW
OLDBURY

HILLBANK
Detached family residence offering good sized accommodation comprising porch, entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, kitchen, utility, cloakroom, sitting room three bedrooms, bathroom, side store room, central heating, double glazing, off-road parking, garden to rear. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £145,000

NEW
TIVIDALE

MARY ROAD
Traditional semi-detached house in popular residential location comprising porch, entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, side verandah, utility room, two bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, part double glazing, established gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £109,950

NEW
ROWLEY REGIS

WINCHESTER CLOSE
A recently re-decorated and well-presented second floor flat comprising communal entrance, uPVC entrance door, hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath, double glazing, electric heating, allocated and communal parking. EPC Rating E.
Offers in the region of £64,950

OLDBURY

BOROUGH CRESCENT
A traditional semi-detached house situated in a convenient and popular residential location comprising porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, cloakroom, three bedrooms, attic playroom/storage, bathroom. Central Heating & Double Glazing. Off road parking and private rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £139,950

REDUCED
WEST BROMWICH

PRINCES GATE
A first floor flat comprising communal entry phone entrance, staircase extending to first floor landing, metal entrance door to reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, electric heating and double glazing, allocated car parking space. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £83,000

TO LET
TIPTON

THUNDERBOLT WAY
Modern semi-detached house in a convenient location comprising entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, double glazing, central heating, gardens to front, side and rear. EPC Rating C.
Rent: £700 pcm

TO LET
ROWLEY REGIS

THRONE ROAD
A well presented and maintained extended end Town House comprising storm porch, reception hall, lounge, extended rear sitting room and kitchen, downstairs W.C. three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, off-road parking and small rear garden. EPC Rating E
Rent: £680 pcm

PUBLIC NOTICE

33 REGENT DRIVE, OLDBURY, B69 1TH
We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £139,000. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify Tom Giles & Co., of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

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NEW

74 CARLYLE ROAD, EDGBASTON

- Individual Victorian detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite Shower & Fully Tiled House Bathroom
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Launderette/Store
- Downstairs WC
- Basement Storage Area
- Good Size Garden & Garage
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £325,000

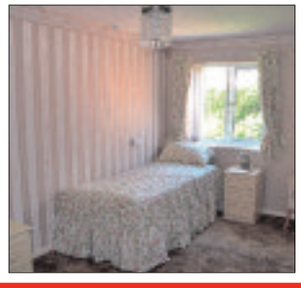
NEW

52 PITCAIRN ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Close to Warley Woods
- Virtually Double Glazed Throughout
- Three Bedrooms
- Fully Tiled Shower Room
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Garage & Off-Road Parking
- Gardens to Front and Rear
- Cosmetic Improvement
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £219,950

NEW



33 MILTON COURT, BEARWOOD

- Warden Controlled
- Over 55s
- First Floor Flat
- PVC Double Glazed
- Electric Storage Heaters
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower
- Lounge & Kitchen
- Communal Gardens
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £67,500

NEW

142 GILBERT ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Mid-Terraced Property
- Close To Cape Hill
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Bathroom & Sparate WC

ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

NEW

24 ALEXANDER ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Gardens Front and Rear
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £130,500

NEW

71 GRANGE ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Four Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Wet Room
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Needing Refurbishment
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £169,950

NEW

6 FOUR STONES GROVE, EDGBASTON

AUCTION -Requiring Modernisation
Lounge and Kitchen
Two Bedrooms
Off-Street Parking
Detached Garage
ENERGY RATING : C

CIRCA £70,000 - £80,000

NEW

199 LIGHTWOODS ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Bathroom with Individual Shower Compartment
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950

NEW PRICE

44 THE UPLANDS, SMETHWICK

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Neatly Laid Out Garden
- Ideal FTBs
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £109,000

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Dovecote Close, Tipton

• Modern Detached
• Good Location ● Good Size Plot
• Gas Central Heating
• 3 Bedrooms,
OFFERS AROUND: £149,995
Viewing:

Leveson Drive, Tipton

• Modern Middle Terrace
• Spacious Well Presented Family Accommodation
• Upvc Doubke Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 3 Bedrooms,
OFFERS AROUND: £124,995
Viewing:

Gough Drive, Tipton

• Modern 3 Storey End Town House
• Spacious family Accommodation
• upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 4 Bedrooms ● en suite,
OFFERS AROUND: £164,950
Viewing:

Moors Mill Lane, Tipton

• End Terrace
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Well Maintained Accomodation
• 3 Bedrooms,
OFFERS AROUND: £94,950
Viewing:

Attingham Drive, Dudley

• Modern Detached Family Home
• Beautifully Presented Spacious Family Accommodation
• upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
OFFERS AROUND: £245,000
Viewing:

Sannders Crescent, Tipton

• Superb Modern Semi Detached
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Immaculate Spacious Family Accommodation
• 4 Bedrooms ● En Suite,
OFFERS AROUND: £184,995
Viewing:

Lower Lapwing Piece, Tipton

• Superb Modern detached family Home
• Sought After Development
• upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• EPC C
• Lounge
Viewing

• Fitted Kitchen / Family Room ● Utility ● Guest Cloakroom
• 4 Bedrooms ● En Suite Shower Room ● Family Bathroom
• Driveway ● Garage ● Attractive Garden,
OFFERS AROUND: £215,000

Arthur Road, Tipton

• Improved Semi Detached Family Home
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• Spacious Accommodation
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC C
OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Bankfield Road, Tipton

• Traditional Semi Detached
• Most Sought After Location
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC D
OFFERS AROUND: £144,950
Viewing:

Anchor Drive, Tipton

• Modern 3 Storey End Town House
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• No Upward Chain
• 3 Bedrooms ● En Suite, EPC C
Overs Over: £125,000
Viewing:

Glebefields Road, Tipton

• Spacious Semi Detached Family Home
• Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
• No Upward Chain
• 3 Bedrooms, EPC C
OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

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Seagar Street, West Bromwich

• 2 Bedroom semi detached
• Cul-De-Sac location
• Master with en suite
• , Guest Cloaks, Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £136,500
Viewing:

Gads Lane, West Bromwich

• Detached House on large Plot
• 3 Bedrooms
• 3 Reception Rooms
• , Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast room
OFFERS AROUND: £215,000
Viewing:

Brett Street, West Bromwich

• Semi Detached House
• 3 Bedrooms
• Lounge / Dining Room
• , Kitchen, WC, Front & Rear Porch
OFFERS AROUND: £135,000
Viewing:

Linwood Road, Birmingham

• Victorian Mid Terrace
• 4 Bedrooms
• hallway, sitting room, Lounge
• , Dining Room, Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £160,000
Viewing:

Oakwood Street, West Bromwich

• Mid Terrace House
• 3 Bedrooms
• Lobby, Lounge, Dining Room
• , Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
Viewing:

Church Vale, West Bromwich

• Upper floor Maisonette
• 2 Bedrooms
• Double Glazed, GCH
• , Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £92,500
Viewing:

Millfields Road, West Bromwich

• New Build Detached
• 3 Bedrooms, en suite to master
• Guest Cloaks, Family Bathroom
• , Fitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £179,995
Viewing:

Farhill Close, West Bromwich

• End Terrace
• 3 bedrooms
• Lounge
• , Kitchen / Diner
OFFERS AROUND: £120,000
Viewing:

Friar Park Road, Wednesbury

• Mid Terrace Property
• Three Bedrooms
• Lounge & Modern Kitchen
• EPC Rating: D, First Floor Bathroom
OFFERS AROUND: £105,000
Viewing:

Mill Street, Wednesbury NEW

• Modern End Town House
• Three Bedrooms (en-suite to master)
• Lounge & Dining Room
• EPC Rating C, Kitchen With Utility Area
OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing:

Cinder Way, Wednesbury NEW

• Well Presented Mid Town House
• Two Bedrooms
• Spacious Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
• , Modern Refitted Kitchen
OFFERS AROUND: £107,995
Viewing:

Vicarage Road, Wednesbury NEW

• Traditional Mid Terrace Property
• Three Double Bedrooms
• Two Reception Rooms
• , Ground Floor Modern Bathroom
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

Hobs Road, Wednesbury

• Traditional Semi Detached Residence
• Three Bedrooms & Modern Bathroom
• Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
• EPC Rating E, Impressive Kitchen With Pantry
OFFERS AROUND: £149,995
Viewing:

Manor Road, Wednesbury REDUCED

• Mid Terrace Property
• Three Bedrooms
• Good Size Lounge
• EPC Rating C, Modern Kitchen Incorporating Ap-
OFFERS AROUND: £90,000
Viewing:

Corporation Street, Wednesbury

• A Traditional style Semi Detached Home With Modern Day living Accommadtion
•
• Open Plan Kitchen and Lounge Area
OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing:

Dove Close, Wednesbury

• Modern Detached Residence
• Four Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
• Lounge & Dining Room
• Energy Rating D, Modern Kitchen Including Utility
OFFERS AROUND: £179,995
Viewing:

Galahad Way, Wednesbury

• Modern 1st Floor Apartment
• 50% Shared Ownership Basis
• Double Glazing (throughout)
• Energy Rating D, Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: £35,000
Viewing:

Galahad Way, Wednesbury

• Modern 1st Floor Apartment
• 100% Ownership
• Double Glazing (throughout)
• Energy Rating D, Reception Hall
OFFERS AROUND: £70,000
Viewing:

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Schofield Avenue West Bromwich — TO LET

Semi Detached Residence UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating. Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking & Rear Garden. EPC D

£600 pcm

Beaconsfield Street West Bromwich — TO LET

Spacious 4 bedroom Semi Detached,Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, Four good size Bedrooms, Bathroom, Parking to Front & Rear Garden. EPC E

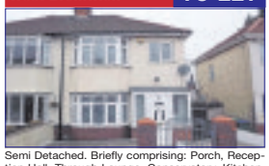
£750 pcm

Whitgreave Street West Bromwich — TO LET

NEWLY REFURBISHED END TERRACE Porch, Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Shower Room, Good Size Rear Garden, Shared Drivewav & Garage. EPC D

£675 pcm

Claypit Lane West Bromwich — TO LET



Semi Detached. Briefly comprising: Porch, Reception Hall, Through Lounge, Conservatory, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Forecourt and Rear Garden. EPC E

£625 pcm

Halfords Lane West Bromwich — TO LET

3 Bedroom middle terraced Reception Hall, Lounge, fitted Kitchen/ dining room, 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Off Road Parking and enclosed rear garden. EPC E

£575 pcm

Clifton Lane West Bromwich — TO LET

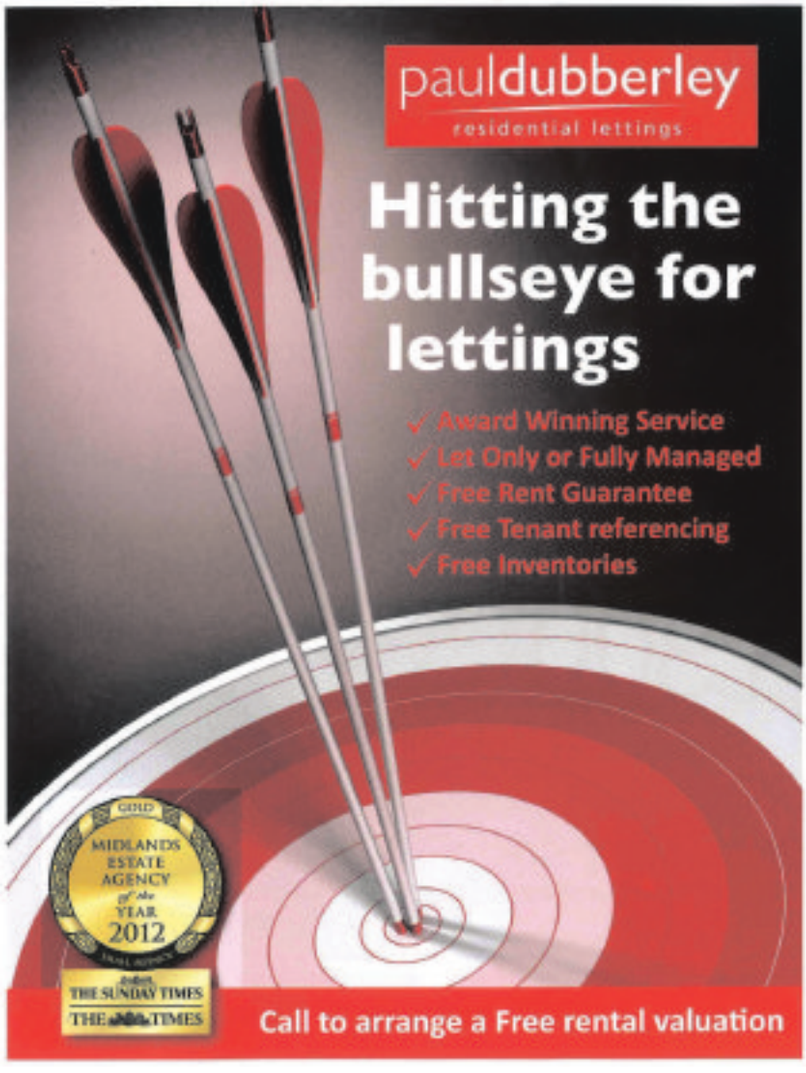
Semi Detached, Briefly comprising of Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Ground Floor Wet Room Utility area with wc. Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Private Rear Garden. EPC C

£595 pcm

Church Lane West Bromwich — TO LET

Semi Detachedbriefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, Three Bedrooms, Off Road Parking & Good Size Rear Garden. EPC D

£550 pcm



Paul Street Wednesbury — TO LET

Semi Detached Reception Hall, Through Lounge Diner, Conservatory, Modern well equipped Fitted Kitchen, Three Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Rear Garden EPC D

£600 pcm

Trouse Lane Wednesbury — TO LET

WELL PRESENTED UPPER FLOOR APARTMENT Reception Hall, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen with white Goods, Double Bedroom, Re Fitted Bathroom with shower, EPC D

£450 pcm

Wigginsmill Road Wednesbury — TO LET

Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, (1 on Ground Floor) Shower Room, Front Driveway & Rear Garden. EPC E

£650 pcm

Toll End Road Tipton — TO LET

Well Presented First Floor Flat Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen with built in oven/hob and Fridge, One Bedroom, Utility Room with built in freezer & Shower Room. EPC D

£425 pcm

Brunswick Park Road

Three Bedroom Traditional Bay Fronted Terrace: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room Modern Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom, Three good size bedrooms, First Floor WC & Private Rear garden.

£575 pcm

Darbys Way Tipton — TO LET

Well Presented Ground Floor Apartment briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower and Allocated Parking Space. EPC C

£500 pcm

Brunswick Park Road

A well presented spacious one bedroom apartment. Briefly comprising of Lounge/ Open plan modem fitted kitchen, Double bedroom with en suite Shower Room EPC D

£450 pcm

Mytton Grove Tipton — TO LET

Recently Redecorated Modern Purpose Built Ground Floor Apartment Reception Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking and Communal Gardens. EPC C

£450 pcm

Dudley Road Tipton — TO LET

Semi Detached Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Through Lounge / Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, 3 Double Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC E

£600 pcm

Julie Croft Bilston — TO LET

Semi Detached Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens and Side Driveway. EPC C

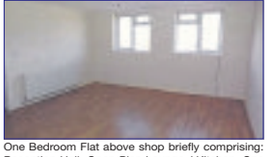
£575 pcm

Groveland Road Tipton — TO LET

Modern First Floor Apartment Briefly comprising: Entrance Hallway, Open Plan Lounge / Fitted Kitchen with white goods, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom & Allocated Parking. EPC C

£425 pcm

Owen Street Tipton — TO LET



One Bedroom Flat above shop briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom & Communal Parking at rear. EPC E

£400 pcm

Newcomen Drive Tipton — TO LET

Modern Executive Detached ,Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Guest WC, Four Good Size Bedrooms, En suite Shower Room, Family Bathroom. Gardens. EPC D

£1,050 pcm

Monins Avenue Tipton — TO LET

Well Presented Purpose built first floor flat, Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating: Reception Hall, Landing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, 1 Bedroom, Bathroom & Allocated Parking. EPC C

£425 pcm

Hurst Lane Tipton — TO LET

Furnished Modern First Floor Apartment, Reception Hall, Open Plan Lounge / Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Size Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Allocated Parking Space. EPC C

£550 pcm

Potters Brook Tipton — TO LET

The property comprises a modern, one bedroom, first floor apartment, UPVc Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating Reception Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking. EPC B

£425 pcm

South Oval Dudley — TO LET

Three Bedroom Property, Reception Hall Lounge, Dining Room, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family bathroom, Private rear garden, downstairs W/C Off road parking. EPC D

£595 pcm

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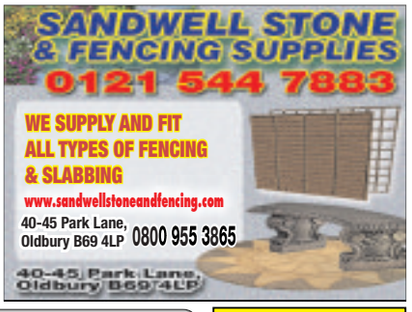

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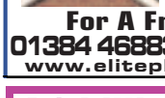

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Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Index

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6 Property
7 Jobs
8 Motoring
9 Local Information
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1 Family

elderly & disabled

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holidays

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Indoor Car Boot Sale.
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Walsall FC Supporters Club
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Doors open - Sellers 9am / Buyers 10am
Entry 30p / Tables £5 & £7.50
Booked on 01922 621179

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Every Sunday
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Booters £4
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07538 842842

jumble sales / fetes

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Admission 20p.

what's on

ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS FAIR
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FRIDAY 10TH JUNE
8.00AM - 4PM
07712 597468
★ www.blackcountryfairs.co.uk ★

antique fairs

ANTIQUE/COLLECTORS FAIR Kinver Comm Centre, Sun June 5 (also Bromsgrove every Fri) Next fair 3rd July, limited stalls available. EST 1979. Waverley. Next Book Fair Sunday 17th July. Home made refreshments available (all venues). 0121 550 4123.

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3 Home & Services

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furniture

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FACTORY SHOP SALE
Over 1,000 mattresses in stock to take away or next day delivery.
100's of end of the line mattresses at bargain prices
Major credit cards accepted

eg Small single quilted matts NSP £49. Sale £19. Single luxury stitchbond regular matts NSP £69 Sale £39. Orthopaedic backcare. Single £69 Double £89. Memory foam quality matts singles £79 Doubles £99.
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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
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vets

Express & Star

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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6 Property

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No Deposit
"Move In Today"
Studios from £90pw*
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*Includes Most Bills
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Online at
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7 Jobs

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- **I-beam Designers**
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8 Motoring

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HYUNDAI SANTA FE ESTATE 2003, petrol, 4WD, MoT October 2016, 135,000 miles, new tow bar, electric sunroof, alloy wheels. **£750. 01543 505955. 07733 063247.**

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PEUGEOT 307 HDi ESTATE, 2004, 78,000 miles, full MoT, £475 ono. Telephone 07833 645688.

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ROVER 45S 2003, MoT September, spares or repairs, alloy wheels. £150. 07730 888063.

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public & legal notices

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/16/59414	Mr K Sharma	24 - 30 Claypit Lane West Bromwich B70 9UN	Outline application (access only) for proposed 2 No. blocks of 6 No. terraced dwellings (total 12 dwellings).

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

Mr Nick Bubalo, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Castle Road West, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Castle Road West, Oldbury between 190-196. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 10/06/16, effective from 06/06/16. Traffic will be diverted via Albert Road, Wolverhampton Road, Bleakhouse Road and vice-versa. Purpose - lay new service water pipe.

IVY MAY SKETCHLEY
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Poplars Nursing Home, 66 South Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, who died on 17/09/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/08/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Edwin Coe LLP, 2 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TH. Ref: BOS.SKE.11.1

10 Personals

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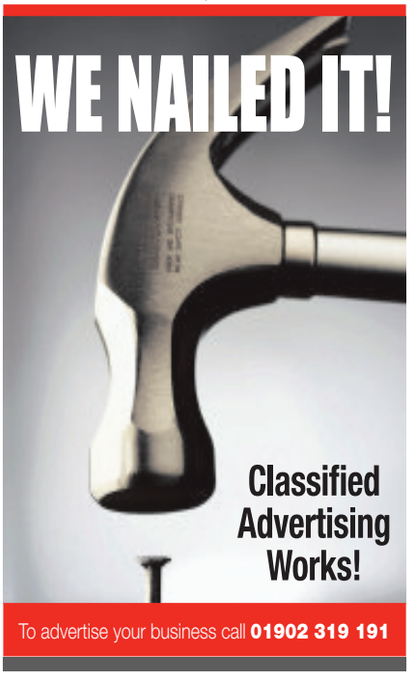

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Honda Motability offers

By James Parker

With an excellent range that includes best-sellers like the new Honda Jazz, new Civic hatchback and Tourer estate plus the CR-V SUV, Honda is able to offer Motability considerable choice and variety.

It's also worth noting that two cars in the range – the Civic and CR-V – are both currently built here in Britain!

Last year, What Car? Magazine's journalists voted Honda as the most reliable car brand for the ninth year in a row.

All this information combines to make Honda a 'go to' brand for many Motability customers, especially as this esteemed manufacturer is able to offer a number of enticing deals.

Let's take a look at those Honda Motability offers currently available at your Honda dealer.

New Honda Jazz

We start with the talented Jazz where selected models in the excellent new Honda Jazz supermini range are now available with NIL Motability Advanced Payment, including the Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC S Automatic and even better equipped Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Automatic.

All other Jazz models are also available under the scheme for low Advanced Payments.

Honda Civic

Need more room? All of the Civic five-door range is available to Motability customers, including petrol and diesel versions and the sleek Civic Tourer model.

Outstanding Motability offers across the Civic range include the NIL Advanced Payment on the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC S five-door, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus five-door and the Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus five-door with Sat Nav. The Civic 1.8 i-VTEC S Automatic is also available with a Low Advanced Payment of £99. All these Civics are petrol-powered.

Go diesel and there's the Civic 1.6 i-DTEC S five-door available for a Motability Advanced Payment of only £99.

It's also worth noting that two cars in the range – the Civic and CR-V – are both currently built here in Britain

What's more, you'll be gaining one of the most advanced, refined and efficient diesels around.

Opt for the stylish Civic Tourer and there's nil advanced payment on the Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Automatic while the Civic Tourer 2.0 i-VTEC S 2WD is currently being offered for the low advanced payment of £299.

The Civic Tourer 1.6 i-DTEC S with that excellent diesel powerplant is also available for an Advanced Payment of £299.

Honda CR-V

And then there's the CR-V, Honda's excptionally talented SUV for Motability customers to consider, especially as the CR-V 2.0i-VTEC S 2WD is currently being offered for an advanced payment of £299.

The diesel-powered CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC S 2WD is also available for an advanced payment of £699.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban Cycle 28.0 – 72.4 (10.1 – 3.9), Extra Urban 43.5 – 83.1 (6.5 – 3.4), Combined 36.7 – 78.5 (7.7 – 3.6). CO2 emissions 179 – 94g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. Models Shown: Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Manual in White Orchid Pearl, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus Manual in Twilight Blue Metallic, Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Manual in Twilight Blue Metallic and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD in Twilight Blue Metallic. Terms and Conditions: Nil Advanced Payment offer on Jazz 1.3 i-VTEC SE Manual, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC SE Plus Manual, Civic Tourer 1.8 i-VTEC S Manual and CR-V 2.0 i-VTEC S Manual 2WD. All offers are correct at the time of going to print however Honda (UK) reserves the right to change this offer at any time. Models subject to availability. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire of goods. The scheme is available to recipients of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners Mobility Supplement. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of a minimum of 12 months allowance. Valid for applications between 01 April to 30 June 2016 to Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876), City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HB. Promoter is Honda Motor Europe Limited trading as Honda (UK) at Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL.

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Kia range fuel consumption: Urban 19.3-54.3 mpg, Extra-Urban 31.0-70.6 mpg, Combined 26.2-62.8 mpg, CO_2 117-258 g/km.

MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Pictures for illustration only.

For 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty and terms and exclusions visit www.kia.co.uk. Offer not available with any other offer. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 30th June 2016. For Motability details and eligibility visit: www.motability.co.uk

Sportage success continues with more top gongs

Only a few months after launch, the all-new Kia Sportage has been crowned with another significant accolade, Diesel Car Magazine Car of the Year. Alongside this prestigious award, Sportage was also named Best Medium sized SUV.

The all-new fourth generation Sportage bettered the competition due to its excellent specification levels, even on low grade vehicles, including Bluetooth connectivity, DAB radio and satellite navigation. This coupled with its dynamic handling and distinctive design, made this family crossover a clear choice for the top spot.

The Sportage also impressed with its competitive prices, from only £17,995 or £139 a month, placing it as a very easy purchase decision for customers. The lead-in 1.7 CRDi 6-speed manual version starts at £19,745. Teamed with Kia's industry leading seven year warranty, the Sportage also brings significant peace of mind.

Kia's new crossover, which was introduced to the UK market on February 5 this year, has already seen unprecedented sales success, with over 14,000 customers placing orders in just four months.

Not far behind the Sportage in Diesel Car's Top 50 cars was Kia's family hatchback the cee'd, which came in at number 21, beating industry staples such as the Mazda 3 and Audi A3. Also claiming a top 50 place was Kia's range topping large SUV, the Sorento.

Editor and publisher of Diesel Car Ian Robertson commented on Kia's win: "The Sportage won the top spot because of its generous equipment levels, keen prices and excellent road manners, which means that the Sportage leapfrogs the competition to sit at the very top of the class."

Paul Philpott, president and chief executive of Kia Motors (UK) Limited said: "We are delighted and honoured to get this tremendous accolade from Diesel Car. Clearly new Sportage is a big winner with customers and Diesel Car's endorsement only reinforces the car's success."

For more information, images and videos on the all-new Sportage please visit, http://www.all-newsportageuklaunch.co.uk/

Mustang well worth wait of 50 long years

By Ian Donaldson

IT has taken half a century and produced some entirely forgettable models along the way, but the Ford Mustang is finally available in proper European trim, with right hand drive – and it's been worth the wait.

The sixth generation of a Mustang that sparked demand for a new kind of car when it first appeared in 1965 can now be yours from £30,995.

That buys a properly American-made Mustang (of course!) but without the mighty V8 engine under the bonnet that produced the thunderous soundtrack made famous by Hollywood and Steve McQueen.

Still, with 145mph on tap and zero to 62mph in 5.8 seconds it's no slowcoach. Clever electronics even generates a synthetic soundtrack that does a good impersonation of the real thing.

This Mustang-lite (a relative term with such a large machine) also uses a bit less fuel (35.3mpg officially but 27mpg on test) and looks every American inch the real deal.

When sales settle down after the initial rush, with more than 3,500 Mustangs on order or delivered in the UK to date, this 2.3 EcoBoost with four cylinders and 313bhp is expected to take around half of all sales.

But at the moment the rush to satisfy a demand that's been building for 50 years means most Mustangs come with the pukka 5.0 litre V8.

Drive one and you know why from the first gentle push of the throttle; here is a car that's effortlessly fast – with 155mph and 4.8 seconds to 62mph available without hesitation.

If the official 20.9mpg looks like a reason to shun the real deal, consider the 23mpg the car returned over the same test route as its slighter sibling.

A real world four mpg advantage will not deter anyone who relishes the genuine throb of eight big cylinders at work.

Neither will a price difference of £4,000 that makes the 2.3 EcoBoost look almost a giveaway at £30,995 but the full fat 5.0 Fastback a steal for £34,995.

Brakes

That buys a car that comes loaded with kit, from Brembo front brakes, limited slip differential, xenon headlights, nine speaker sound system, power adjustable front seats, rear view camera and a switch to tame the rear wheels on slippery roads or sharpen the car's reactions when you feel a bit sporty.

The interior is clearly built with price in mind and the plastics on show will not worry Audi, or even Kia for that matter. No complaints about the superb front seats, perfect driving position and crisply clear instruments.

There is a six-speed manual gearbox as standard, with an automatic transmission for £1,500 behind either engine, and it is important you try both before putting down your deposit. They make more of a difference to the way this new Mustang behaves than even the engine choice. The manual box links your right foot to the nerve centre of the car and makes it feel so much more connected than the slightly diffident auto. As big a difference is available for an extra £3,500 in the handsome shape of the Mustang convertible, which weighs a bit more than the fixed-roof fastback and, predictably, shimmies gently on bad roads thanks to the lack of a rigid roof.

It's powered hood vanishes neatly in seconds and there is actually a fraction more leg room in the rear than offered in the fastback. Neither cars' back seats are adult friendly though, but perfectly suited to a couple of growing nippers, who are unlikely to complain as they out-cool their schoolmates. The convertible loses a little boot room but either body style has more than enough space for a fun car with a mildly serious side when there's shopping to be carried.

A fraction wider than, say, a Land Rover Discovery makes the Mustang a machine that needs some care on country roads but the further it went the narrower it seemed – always a sign of a car that keen drivers will enjoy.

Proper all-round independent suspension helps too, even if it strays on the harsh side of firm on some of our worst road surfaces.

TESTED

Ford Mustang 5.0 V8 GT

Engine: Petrol engine, 415bhp

Warranty: Three years or 60,000 miles

Economy: The Mustang can do 20.9mpg

Insurance group: 43

Price: £34,995

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, June 2, 2016

A 1923 Vauxhall makes long road trip after major restoration work

By James Parker

A 1923 Vauxhall 23/60 made its first long journey after an 18-month mechanical restoration to be reunited with three generations of the previous owner's family at Vauxhall Motors' Heritage Centre in Luton.

Known as Alice, the vintage Vauxhall is now thought to be the most original of the around 90 surviving 23/60s from a total production of 1,300 made at the famous Kimpton Road factory between 1922 and 1926.

Kay Lorenzato, whose late husband owned the car from the 1950s, was delighted to see it for the first time after its inaugural, post-resto drive from Leicestershire to the last Vauxhall Bedford Owners' Association meeting. Her husband, she said, would have been "proud to see Alice on the road again" after he'd shared so many experiences with the car during the 1950s and 60s.

And Raymond Lorenzato certainly used the car extensively. A Grimsel Pass sticker on the windscreen and three tickets from a cinema in Lucerne found under the seat during restoration were evidence of just some of the European road trips he made in the 50s. The car also competed in various VSCC events, before being pushed into service as the Lorenzatos' daily transport during the 1960s (including the harsh winter of 1962/63).

Alice's appearance, which still shows the scars of a 93-year life, has carefully been preserved

Alice was last seen in Luton in 1964 at a 30-98 Register meeting and was on the road for a further three years, before being retired to the family garage with a cracked block. Talking to Vauxhall staff at the VBOA meeting, Kay Lorenzato had fond memories of attending rallies in Alice with her husband in the early 60s – including one at Brooklands – and recalled how attached they both were to the car.

Well known restorer and vintage racer, Mark Walker, purchased Alice from Kay at a Bonhams Beaulieu auction and over the last year and a half has undertaken a full mechanical restoration.

The block has been repaired and new high-compression pistons fitted, but wherever possible Mark has retained original components, with 'conservation' rather than 'restoration' being his mantra.

And Alice's appearance, which still shows the scars of a 93-year life, has carefully been preserved, with even the original leather trim being saved during the process.

"In Alice, 60mph at 2,000 rpm is still a comfortable and smooth cruising speed and the car keeps up well with modern traffic," said Walker.

"Higher speeds are certainly possible, but with only rear brakes, probably not advisable! I intend to use the car as family transport and would love to recreate the trip over the Grimsel Pass one day"

SALE EVENT

Don't miss out on our Sales Event this week
All cars will be reduced
Call or visit for further information

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY

CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK

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2012/12 RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.2 SD4 PURE 5 door, White, 55,000 miles £23,750

2010/10 JAGUAR XF 3.0 V6 LUXURY 4 door, Auto, Blue, 28,600 miles £15,495

Vauxhall Ampera Selection
2012/12 VAUXHALL AMPERA ELECTRON HYBRID White, 25,000 miles £12995

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2009/09 VAUXHALL ANTARA SE CDTi AUTO Blue Grey, 60,000 miles £7995

Vauxhall Astra Selection
2006/06 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ACTIVE Silver, Only 17,000 miles £3650
2008/58 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 DESIGN 3 door, Gold Sat Nav, 30,000 miles £3995
2011/11 VAUXHALL ASTRA TOURER EST CDTi 47,000 miles £6850
2012/12 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5 door, Black, 45,000 miles £6995
2010/60 VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.4 5 door, Silver, only 13,000 miles £6995
2012/62 VAUXHALL ASTRA LTD EDITION Red, 28,000 miles, 5 door £7450
2012/12 VAUXHALLASTRA 1.6 SRi ESTATE, Silver, 28,000 miles £7995
2013/63 VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 1.4T Red, 17,000 miles £8995
2015/15 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 1.4 5 door, White, 13,000 miles £9150
2015/15 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 DESIGN White, 10,000 miles £9150
2013/13 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 TOURER SRI CDTI 5 Door, Blue, 34000 miles £9495
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2014/64 VAUXHALL CORSA STING , 6000 miles, White £6495
2011/61 VAUXHALL CORSA 3dr, Ltd Edition, White, 16,000 miles £6995
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Peter Rippington Award winners claim their accolades on stage with Amy Rippington, left, and Chris Brunt

Ladies Basketball Most valuable Player was Lauren Saa

Ellie McFarlane was named the under-11s Coach's Player of the Year

Brunt centre stage for Sporting presentation

BAGGIES star Chris Brunt was the star attraction at the annual Sport club Albion presentation evening.

More than 300 eager footballers and basketball players flocked to The Hawthorns for the event.

The Northern Ireland international was on hand to distribute the awards as representatives from the girls' centre of excellence, ladies' football and basketball teams flooded the Richardson Suite for a night of celebration.

Sporting Club Albion is an integral part of The Albion Foundation and provides an opportunity for the local community to wear the Baggies' colours in a range of sports. The club has more than 250 players and 20 teams.

Brunt happily handed out awards and posed for photos with the award winners in each age group.

Individual trophies were given for the players' player, coach's player and parents' player of the year. And as is the tradition in basketball, there was a most valuable player (MVP) award.

Unbeaten

Compered by girls centre of excellence manager Louise Scott, the night featured a multitude of videos and photos highlighting an action-packed season which included the under-16 boys' basketball team remaining unbeaten all season and the Sporting Club Albion Ladies side reaching the County Cup final and progressing to the quarter-finals of the Women's FA Cup where they came up against Women's Super League side Manchester City.

Rob Lake, director of the foundation, said: "It was fantastic to see such an excited crowd at another of our end of season awards nights. The atmosphere was electric.

"We really appreciate Chris taking time out of his day to join us. Being on stage for the players to have their photo with him really made the night special for them. There is a great trust and respect between the coaches and I felt that was demonstrated with their speeches. I cannot speak highly enough of the group."

SPORTING FEATURE

By Ben Pollard

"It was fantastic to see such an excited crowd at another of our end of season awards nights."

The night also featured the announcement that the Sporting Club Albion set up would revert to West Bromwich Albion as of next season, meaning all teams will play under the Baggies name. The evening ended with the distribution of the Peter Rippington Award.

The accolade is in honour of Peter Rippington, who died in 2012, A long-standing supporter of all levels of football, he was teacher at Alvechurch School, and the father of former Club Albion player Amy. Mr Rippington was renowned for being loyal, selfless, and hard working in every aspect of his life, and the recipient of this award shares such traits.

The award is given to the player who, in the eyes of the ladies' coaching team and senior playing staff, has represented the SCA badge with the same loyalty and dedication that Mr Rippington represented his family, his school and his community.

This year, the award was dedicated to four Sporting Club Albion Ladies players – Kelly Darby, Hazzana Parnell, Eleanor Clarke and Billie Haynes – who have lost relatives throughout the season. Te awards for Sporting Club Albion Ladies were not distributed due to the team still having a number of games remaining as they battle for the league title and the opportunity to be promoted to the Women's Super League.

Awards were: Girls Centre of Excellence, football Under-11s - Coach's Player of the Year: Ellie McFarlane; Players' Player of the Year: Alannah Meynell; Parents' Player of the Year: Alannah Meynell.

Under-13s - Coach's Player: Anna Craig; Players' Player: Anna Bebb; Parents' Player: Harmonie Cotterell.

Under-15s - Coach's Player: Charlie Whitehouse; Players' Player: Freya Owens; Parents' Player: Katie Clarke.

Under-17s - Coach's Player: Shannon Stamps; Players' Player: Lucy Finch; Parents' Player: Lucy Finch.

Basketball, Under-16 Boys - Coach's Player of the Year: Adam Tiley; Player's Player of the Year: Sulyman Suwareh; Boys Most Valuable Player: Connor Lynch.

Under-18 Girls – Coach's Player: Oliwia Zegel; Players' Player: Lauren Saa; Girls Most Valuable Player: Lauren Saa; Boys – Coach's Player: Tarondeep Nijjar; Players' Player: Jrae Lue; Boys Most Valuable Player: Encosee Richards.

Under-19 Boys – Coach's Player: Matej Dudak; Players' Player: Jamal Brown; Boys Most Valuable Player: Jamal Brown.

Mens - Coach's Player of the Year: Dale Deakin and Dinais Tobi-Lara; Players' Player: Ramone Joseph; Most Valuable Player: Dailian Mason.

Women's – Coach's Player: Abby Watson; Players' Player: Lauren Saa; Most Valuable Player: Fatosh Tozaki.

Peter Rippington Award: Kelly Darby, Hazzana Parnell, Eleanor Clarke, Billie Haynes.

Sporting Albion's girls' under-15s girls line up on stage ahead of their presentations

Freya Owens presented with the girls' u-15s Players' Player award by Albion winger Chris Brunt

Sport

Baggies skipper Brunt star turn at presentation night

Page 43

Steelers top table after sturdy show

SANDWELL Steelers' defence took the plaudits as Jay Alexander's side climbed to the top of the Midland Football Conference division one table.

A 14-0 success on the road at Ouse Valley Eagles made it five wins from six games this season for the Steelers as they eye back-to-back titles.

And it was the defence that provided the platform for victory with another impressive show.

Head coach Alexander opted to put his trust in his running backs in a bid to pose more of an attacking threat, but any hopes quarterback Jonny Glover and his offence had of making progress were continually checked by a series of penalties that saw Sandwell marched back by the officials.

But despite their ill-discipline The Steelers were able to find their way into the end zone during the first half.

Strong running from Dwain Houghton saw the elusive back score his first touchdown of the season from short yardage.

Running-back Leigh French also found the end zone but the play was ruled out for a holding offence.

The second half started with the Eagles having a score ruled out for a penalty against their offensive line

Sandwell's special teams and defence continued to apply pressure on the Eagles and turned the ball over with yet another interception handing the ball back to their offense on Ouse Valley's 14-yard line. That brought Steelers their second score with French taking advantage of some text book blocking from his running back partner Dan James to bag his first touchdown of the season.

Kicker Greg Freeman added what proved to be the last point of the game.

The Steelers now head into an extended break before they return to action at the Birmingham Bulls on June 19.

Bulldogs let go of the lead as they fall foul to Raiders

Telford Raiders 46
Birmingham Bulldogs 26

DESPITE taking an early lead, Birmingham Bulldogs Rugby League FC were unable to move to move on to victory against a resilient Telford Raiders side.

In the opening minutes Raiders could not cope with the running play of Bulldogs' McCue and Homer and McCue's try, goaled by Bancroft gave the visitors a deserved early lead.

But Brum did not field the restart correctly, and, defending close to their own line, Bulldogs conceded a succession of penalties from the last of which Telford scored. Spurred on by this, Raiders mounted a wave of attacks that yielded four more tries to take them well clear.

Back came Brum, with Homer going over for a try just before the break Bulldogs scored first after half time, James Smart crossing for a try, Bancroft goaling. Once again Telford responded with two converted tries in rapid succession.

Bulldogs kept at it, posting two tries, both goaled by Bancroft On Saturday, Dogs are at home against Northampton Demons at Moseley RFC, 2.30 ko.

McAuley ponders international future

Football

ALBION defender Gareth McAuley has admitted he faces a decision on whether to continue his international career after Euro 2016.

The 36-year-old was among the stand-out performers in the first Northern Ireland team to qualify for a major tournament in 30 years and is hoping to make his mark during the tournament in France.

But McAuley, who signed a one-year deal with the Baggies last month, has revealed he intends to sit down with international boss Michael O'Neill after the championships to decide his future.

O'Neill is thought to be keen for the centre-back to stay on for the World Cup qualifying campaign but McAuley does not want to commit without being confident he could complete it, meaninghe could have played his last game at Windsor Park following last week's friendly against Belarus.

McAuley said: "I'll sit down and talk to Michael about things after France.

"I'll be focused on the tournament and then we can discuss the future."

McAuley recently became Albion's oldest outfield player during the Premier League era, but showed little sign of age catching up with him during a season in which he made 46 appearances. He added: "Of course I want to play for Northern Ireland, but the thing is can I commit to two years for another qualifying campaign?

"I have it in my head that I am taking a season at a time.

"I've signed another year's contract at West Brom and the last thing I would want to do is start something and then have to retire or leave it in the middle.

"That's a big thing I have to sit down and speak to Michael about.

"He has said to me that I look like I could play for another two years but we'll see."

BRUM BRINGS HOME BACON

BIRMINGHAM racer Tom Bacon has suffered two fractured metatarsals in his right foot – but has vowed to be back on the bike at the first opportunity.

The 23-year-old collided with Rye House rider George Hunter during last week's 60-30 demolition.

Hunter lifted Bacon in front of him down the back straight in heat three, leaving the Surestop Brummies rider with nowhere else to go.

Despite his injury, Bacon says his team-mates deserve plenty of credit for their performance.

"We were already without Tom Perry through injury and to lose me early on made it an even bigger challenge for the team," he said.

"As soon as I got to the hospital, the first thing I did was check the result and when I saw the score I couldn't have been happier for everyone.

"It was a great performance from all the boys and to hit 60 with just five riders doesn't happen very often.

Possible

"The pain was horrible but it was just a racing incident that I could do nothing about. I'll be doing everything within my power to be back fit and ready to race again at the earliest point possible.

"If I could, I'd have gone back out and done the re-run but they told me I wasn't allowed."

Team manager Graham Drury said: "When you heard how much pain Tom was in and how he screamed when they lifted his leg, we thought it was a broken ankle initially and that would have been season over for him.

"Thankfully that proved not to be the case and while it's still a nasty, painful injury to sustain, it could have been a lot worse. Tom's a smashing lad though, he's got the right attitude and I know he'll give it his all to come back as soon as he feels fit enough. With two riders now out, it does open the option up of a guest for the foreseeable future so we'll be working hard behind the scenes to ensure we get the bookings spot on!"

BIRMINGHAM 60: Jack P Blackburn 15+4, Jack Smith 13+4, Danyon Hume 12+2, Darryl Ritchings 10+3, Zach Wajtknecht 10, Tom Bacon 0, Tom Perry R/R.
RYE HOUSE 30: Robert Branford 13, Ben Morley 8+1, Luke Priest 5, Macauley Leek 4, George Hunter 0, Connor Locke 0, Kenny Bowdery 0.

Fell and Jaffer are derby heroes

Howzat! – Wolverhampton's wicket keeper, Jack Parr, and West Bromwich batsman, Kabir Ali

TOM Fell and Wasim Jaffer played starring roles as Wolverhampton claimed the Black Country derby day spoils at West Bromwich Dartmouth.

Worcestershire star Fell scored a well-crafted century as he shared an opening stand of 174 with skipper Dan Bowyer (65) before former India Test batsman Jaffer provided a masterclass with an unbeaten 90 from just 43 balls

Jaffer didn't arrive at the crease until the 37th over but then struck seven fours and six sixes as Wolverhampton finished on 305-4.

That total proved beyond Dartmouth despite an unbeaten 120 from Warwickshire's Ateeq Javid. Adam Lawley picked up 3-56 as the hosts ended on 263-5. The victory lifted Wolves up to third in the Premier Division standings.

Walsall tumbled from top spot down to fourth following an 87-run defeat at Barnt Green. Ed Denham took 5-26 as Barnt Green fell for 204 but Walsall crashed to 117 all out in reply. Smethwick are the new leaders in Division One following a 61-run win over Attock.

Vignesh Venkatasubramanian (100), Armitoze Singh (56), Waqar Saleem (49) and Arif Mahmood (40 not out) scored the bulk of the runs in Smethwick's imposing total of 318-6. Venkatasubramanian then impressed with the ball, claiming 4-47 to help dismiss Attock for 257.

Heartbreak for ladies as Albion lose

SPORTING Club Albion Ladies missed out on promotion to Division Two of the Women's Super League after going down to Brighton and Hove Albion Ladies 4-2 in the Women's Premier League play-off final at Wycombe's Adams Park.

The Baggies, who won the Premier League Northern Division and the County Cup, ultimately left it too late after taking the lead then reducing the arrears late on against the Southern Division champions.

Leigh Dugmore gave Albion a 15th-minute lead when she headed into the roof of the net after the Seagulls failed to clear a corner, but Brighton levelled through Kate Natkiel shortly before the interval.

The former Watford winger then edged her side ahead on 68, sparking a frantic period of three goals in seven minutes as Sophie Perry (73) and Amy Taylor (75) gave Brighton a three-goal cushion.

Fantastic

Karen Clough pulled a goal back for Sporting with two minutes left then Albion suffered a controversial offside call when they had the ball in the net and were denied what appeared to be a stonewall penalty.

Boss Graham Abercrombie tweeted: "Huge thank you to all fantastic @SCALadies supporters who were there and throughout the season! You all make a massive difference!

"We're naturally sad @SCALadies but that will pass and we'll remember what an amazing season we've had! #ForeverChampions. So proud of all the @SCALadies players! Once again against all odds they gave their best, didn't feel sorry for themselves and never quit!"

Abercrombie added: "To reach the heights we have is mind-blowing."

Volleyball players set for tournament

PLAYERS from across the country will take part in the 37th annual Sandwell Volleyball Tournament next month.

The tournament takes place at King George V Playing Fields, Lodgehill Road, West Bromwich, on Saturday, July 2, and will feature three categories – men, women and mixed teams.

Tournament director Richard Callicott said: "We want to attract new teams, new players and people who want to play for fun and enjoy the game."

Trophies and medals will be awarded. The six-member teams pay a £25 entrance fee. To enter, contact Vic Westwood at vicwestw@blueyounder.co.uk

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